

Warlock of the Magus World

(巫界术士)

Arc 01

Transmigration

Wen Chao Gong

(文抄公)

Story Description:

From the future, from a society where man and technology have become one, a scientist known as Fang Ming, upon his death, is reborn in the body of a noble called Leylin. Leylin belongs to a world where magic, swords and knights are commonplace.

Leylin had been a weak, lusty and silly noble before his death. And upon rebirth, the new Leylin finds that fate has provided him with one gift – an AI Chip from his prior life.

With his trusty AI Chip, Leylin embarks on a never-ending journey as he hungers for knowledge and strength to achieve his one goal: becoming a great Magus – one of the most powerful wielders of magic in this world.

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 1: Reincarnation

“My head really hurts....”

This was Fang Ming’s first thought upon waking up. It felt as if there was a cut on his head, hurting so badly that it seemed as if his head was about to split open.

The scene in front of him seemed like he was riding on a horse carriage. His body continued to bounce up and down along with the carriage’s movement, impacting his wound. It was so painful that Fang Ming had to suck in several sharp breaths.

Opening his eyes, he surveyed his surroundings.

What filled his vision were walls formed from hollowed planks. There were also quite a few fair-haired and blue-eyed youths sitting around him with their eyes closed as they rested. However, none of them glanced in his direction.

He seemed to be lying down on the floor. Feeling the ice-cold ground underneath him, Fang Ming knew that his body would not be able to bear lying down any longer, or he would probably catch a cold. He hurriedly struggled to get up.

At that moment, he felt a sharp pain lancing through his head.

The pain arrived suddenly, and brought many strange memories along with it. Fang Ming’s eyes rolled back as he fainted.

“Hi! Leylin! Wake up....”

Fang Ming heard this sound in his daze, and couldn’t help but open his eyes.

“Is this reincarnation?” Fang Ming remembered very clearly that the last thing he had seen were the dazzling flames that had erupted from the energy reactor’s explosion.

It was impossible to survive such an explosion without any method of self-protection.

Furthermore, on the planet he existed on, such a style of carriage and wooden planks were considered ancient antiques.

After organizing the new memories in his mind, Fang Ming gained some insight about his body and this world.

This was a realm similar to the European Middle Ages. A mysterious force also existed.

His current body was originally called Leylin Farlier, a son of a minor noble. As he had been tested to have the gift to become a Magus, his father, Viscount John Farlier, had pulled strings to allow him to become a Magus Apprentice. At the moment, he was on the horse carriage travelling towards a magus academy.

He saw that the one who had woken him up was a large, male youth.

He had thick eyebrows and large eyes, a tall and straight nose, and sparkling gold hair. Although his face was somewhat young and tender, his body was sturdy and well muscled, looking extremely manly.

Seeing that Fang Ming had awoken, the boy laughed happily ,
“Haha....Leylin, you’re finally awake. If you had awoken even a few more minutes later, you probably wouldn’t have been able to make it to dinner. I assume that you don’t want to starve!”

Fang Ming lowered his eyes. After some thought, he figured out this person’s identity.

“Thanks George!”

The youths who were together with him and heading towards the magus academy had all tested to be gifted to be Magi. This George was a legitimate son of a Count, and was also one of the favoured sons for that Count. In order to allow George to enter a magus academy, the Count had spent many resources and pulled strings.

“A count?” Fang Ming inwardly thought.

He flashed back to his current body’s father, Viscount John Farlier, whose holdings were equal in size to a city in his previous life, with

thousands of soldiers under his command. In this world, noble ranking was inevitably tied to personal strength. Since George's father was a Count, his holdings were likely at least the size of several cities, and his annual income was probably a few thousand gold coins. With such finances and power at his disposal, he still had to take so much effort in order to send George to a magus academy. Fang Ming couldn't help but wonder how did his father manage to do the same for him.

As Fang Ming pondered the question, another sharp pain flashed through his head, causing another scene to appear in his mind's eye.

It was a dark room, with old musty shelves lining the sides, filled with an ancient air. The surroundings were chock full with dust.

Under a dim light, John Farlier solemnly passed a ring to Leylin, saying: "Dear Leylin, this is our Farlier Family's Heirloom Treasure, a promise from a Magus. At that time, my grandfather had helped an injured Magus, who had in return gifted grandfather with this ring, promising him that if one of his descendants had the gift to be a Magus, he could use this ring and enter any magus academy for free! Now, I am giving this to you, in hopes that you can be the Pride of the Farlier Family, and uphold our legacy..."

The ring!!!

Fang Ming's eyes narrowed, and his right hand involuntarily went to his chest.

Under his clothing, he could feel the solid touch, like a metal ring was under there.

Heaving a sigh of relief in his heart, he thought to himself: Lucky! I'm not sure if those guys did not recognize it as a treasure, or perhaps there is some restriction. Either way, I'm lucky that this was not snatched from me!"

As a scientist in his former life, Fang Ming was extremely curious and interested in that mysterious strength, filled with the desire to research more about it.

Furthermore, he didn't want to be chased back home because he had lost such an important proof of entry.

Although I have taken over this body and accepted its memories, but I am still very different from the original Leylin. To his family members who have spent years with him, they would easily be able to see the difference! If they mistake it as him being possessed by the devil and perhaps beg or hire one of those mysterious magi to investigate, I might be found out...

However, if I can enter a magus academy, I will probably not return home for at least several years. By that time, if there are any changes in behavior, it would be considered normal. Furthermore, to be a Magus, it is probably normal to be strange and eccentric; if I were to act the same as the Leylin of before, it would be deemed strange then!

Just as he was in deep thought, a pair of strong large hands suddenly assisted him to his feet.

"What are you thinking about?" George asked.

"No... Nothing!" Fang Ming quickly shook his head, then clutched his head again, as it was still in pain.

He suddenly spun his head around and looked at George, causing George's heart to clutch suddenly, as if he was being stared at by a venomous snake.

"Dearest George, why didn't you wake me up earlier, and let me just lie on the floor like that for so long?" Fang Ming rolled his eyes and asked.

"Heh heh! I saw you having such a nice sleep, and thought you liked to lie down there!" George scratched his head abashedly. However, his eyes sparked with a cunning gleam.

Under Fang Ming's murderous glare, he finally raised his hands in surrender: "Fine! Fine! Who asked you to offend my goddess. Offending her is still fine, as bro, I am not such a petty person. Alas, the entire carriage is now treating you like an enemy, and I do not want to be isolated as well!"

“Offend? Goddess?” Fang Ming scratched his head, until he suddenly remembered why he was beaten up.

It was a girl named Bessita. Although she was only 15 years of age, but she her body was already developed and voluptuous, in addition to her watery big eyes, was a huge draw to the lecherous Leylin.

The original Leylin was no gentleman. He had lost his virginity at the age of twelve, and after that he had either seduced or forced his way with many others, and had by now slept with more than a hundred women!

He had been known as the Scourge of his father’s holdings. As Fang Ming finished exploring the memories, he rolled his eyes once again in disdain. No wonder this body was so weak and frail, it wasn’t just because of the injuries!

Thinking back, it was clear that Leylin had been too used to causing trouble in his own territory, and hadn’t been able to control himself when he saw Bessita.

The first few times, it was still rather normal; flirting and making passes. Near the end, he had started resorting to violent means. When Fang Ming saw these memories, he couldn’t help but label the original as an idiot.

That Bessita is a princess of a small country! And Leylin still wanted to rape her. Is his brains filled with glue? Sheesh!

What happened after this goes without saying. Leylin was taught a savage lessons by the bunch of ‘Flower Guardians’ [1. Literal Translation of 护花使者, pretty much her wannabe escorts/protectors], had actually died because of the beatings, which had eventually benefitted Fang Ming.

Heh heh! This Bessita, it seems she isn’t as simple as I thought, how scheming! Fang Ming gave a cold laugh as he thought.

Fine! No matter what, since I have taken over your body, if I have the chance, I will take revenge for you! As for now, I am Leylin Farlier!

Fang Ming swore in his heart.

In Leylin’s memory, he had not seen any signs of Asians, nor had he

heard anything about China. In this new Western styled world, if he used his own Chinese name, it would be too dangerous!

When he looked around, he realized that there was no longer anyone else in sight within the spacious carriage. It was no wonder that George had come to call him.

“No matter what, I still have to thank you! George, do you have any medicine?” Fang Ming stood up and stretched his body. Although it still hurt in a few places, but it did not impede his movement, and the wound at the back of his head had already become a scab.

“Heh heh...I knew that you’d need this!” George laughed as he tossed a small bottle over, “This is my family’s secret product. I heard that it’s usually used during Knight’s training, and is extremely effective against any bodily injuries!”

As George spoke, he looked around furtively: “Alright! Dinner is about to start. I’m going to head there first, you should apply the medicine quickly and hurry over too. Remember, do not tell anyone else about our friendship!”

After he finished speaking, he had ran off like a gust of wind!

Looking at George’s figure disappear into the distance, Leylin couldn’t help but massage his forehead. It looks like this Leylin has truly stirred up a hornet’s nest. Was it such a big deal? In Leylin’s memories, it seems like in this world, sexual relations are rather open...

At this point, he couldn’t do anything to remedy the situation. Swiftly taking off his clothes, Leylin quickly rubbed the medicine all over the injuries on his body.

“Hiss... This damned George. Couldn’t he help me apply the medicine before leaving?” Leylin drew several sharp cold breaths as he applied the medicine.

The medicine was extremely effective. As soon as he applied it, there was a cooling sensation and the pain vanished.

After he had dealt with the wounds on his body, Leylin put on his

clothes and opened the carriage door.

Whoosh!!!

A gentle breeze blew across, and the sun was setting in the horizon, painting everything around with a golden hue.

“No matter what, it feels so good to be alive!!!”

Leylin’s eyes moistened as he muttered.

Looking at the surroundings, he noticed several of the large carriages forming a circle to make a crude temporary campsite, with a large fire in the middle.

There were many youths around the fire, sitting and resting on cloth mats laid on the ground, laughing and playing with each other, while eating the bread in their hands.

Leylin walked towards a table where there were quite a few breads and juices placed. According to his memories, this was where food was distributed.

When he approached the area, he saw that there were a few people queuing up. As they spotted Leyin, they looked over at him with a look of despise.

Although Leylin thought of himself as thick-skinned, he still found it somewhat difficult to endure.

Still, he did not leave. No matter what, he still had to eat.

“Hurry up!” A hoarse voice rang out.

“So...Sorry! Lady Angelia!” A freckled boy quickly apologised and took his share of food before running away.

[Beep! Danger Alert! Danger Alert!]

[You are extremely close to the source of danger. Recommendation: The Host should move at least 1000 meters away!]

Chapter 2: A.I Chip

“This is????”

Leylin’s eyes widened when he heard the mechanical voice in his brain.

“Isn’t this my old assistant A.I. Chip from my previous life? How did it reincarnate with me? This is unscientific!!!”

Leylin found it hard to believe. He said in his brain, “A.I. Chip! Scan my mind and search for locations of assistant systems!”

[Beep! Scan complete! No strange existences were found in the Host’s mind!]

After a mere moment, the A.I. Chip’s mechanical voice replied back.

“Now scan my entire body, and display my body’s stats!”

Another mechanical sound.

[Beep! Scan complete!]

[Fang Ming (Leylin Farlier). Strength: 0.4, Agility: 0.5, Constitution: 0.4, Status: Bleeding from back of the head, many injuries to the soft tissues]

[No A.I. Chips present in the Host’s body!]

A 3D hologram appeared before Leylin’s eyes. It displayed Leylin’s own body, and showed stats on the side.

“No A.I. Chip? I know the A.I. Chip is equivalent to a material substance. How did it follow my soul through reincarnation? Leylin thought to himself, It seems like during the explosion or my reincarnation, some abnormality occurred, and the A.I. Chip’s functions fused with my soul.....”

“If I was still in my previous world, this would be a major discovery! It not only confirms the existence of the soul, but also shows that physical matter and the soul can possibly transform each other! This is definitely something that group of old men in National Academy of Sciences would go crazy over. It’s a pity that I’ll never see them again!”

This kind of A.I. Chip was essential to the scientists in the previous world. Because of issues with human rights and the conscious thought, this technology didn't have any intelligence of its own. It only had two functions: to analyze and to store information.

Its analyzing ability could only be used by following the Host's commands. It gathered data samples and reached a deduction based on simulations.

Its storage abilities were even simpler. It could use the data gathered from everything the Host's five senses experienced and record it down. Based on calculations from the previous world, this kind of A.I. Chip's storage area was enough to record over 10,000 years' worth of events.

"Why did the A.I. Chip and the soul fuse together? I'll ponder this kind of question later when I have the ability and qualifications to do so! But with this A.I. Chip, I have some resources in this world!"

The corners of Leylin's mouth suddenly lifted to form a brilliant smile. He knew that in this Middle Ages period, having a crystallization of future technology would definitely make his future path extraordinary!!!

"But! This Leylin's physique is really..." Leylin was speechless after seeing the stats in front of him.

This stats displayed were based off of each aspect of an adult's physiology as a standard. Theoretically, the average adult's displayed stats would all be around 1. Although this Leylin was only 13-14 years old, his stats were still too low.

"Hm? That's not right. It's possible that the bodies of the people in this world are generally weaker! A.I. Chip, scan the bodies of the people around me and display their stats!"

[Beep! Task established! Beginning the collection of stats!]

In almost an instant, 3D holograms of the surrounding people's bodies appeared in front of Leylin, displaying their stats.

[Name: Unknown. Gender: Male. Strength: 0.9, Agility: 1.1, Constitution: 0.8]

[Name: Unknown. Gender: Male. Strength: 1.2 Agility: 0.8, Constitution: 1.0]

[Name: Unknown. Gender: Female. Strength: 0.8, Agility: 1.2, Constitution: 0.7]

“Well then! It looks like the bodies of these people are stronger than those from my previous world. This Leylin is even inferior to a girl.....I’m starting to feel embarrassed for him.....”

Leylin scanned his surroundings. The people were all youths around his age. There was a seemingly very delicate and frail girl whose stats were tons better than Leylin’s, causing him to feel utter despair.

“It looks like this Leylin is a useless leech, an excessively lecherous piece of trash with no control!”

[Name: Unknown, Gender: Male, Strength: 3.3, Agility: 2.5, Constitution: 3.2. Alert! Alert! This life form is excessively dangerous. Recommendation: Host should immediately move at least 1000 meters away!!!]

A red warning continued to flash 3 times in succession. This caused Leylin to fall into a state of shock.

“Average stats of 3.0!” After Leylin scanned the information several times to double check that the A.I. Chip hadn’t made a mistake, he was left completely speechless.

“Even the world champion doesn’t have these kind of stats. In the previous world, this person could easily dress up as Superman!”

As a scientist, Leylin understood well that a stat of 3.2 meant the person’s fighting capabilities, viral resistance, and body recovery speed was all three times greater than a normal person’s!!!

The various stats displayed being threefold greater than a typical person’s wasn’t as simple as just adding numbers together. What kind of concept was this?

It meant that this person could defeat dozens of people empty-handed, and even get past a group attack by 100 people. In his previous world, he

really counted as a Superman!

“I’m afraid that a person with these kinds of stats could only be created by genetically modifying their biochemistry in a lab. Moreover, only the minimum would be reached! This world is indeed not a simple one!”

Leylin thought to himself as he looked at the person possessing these terrifying stats once again.

It was a black-clothed person responsible for handing out food. He looked like he was middle-aged, and he had a scar on his face that stretched from his forehead to his lip. It pretty much split his entire face in half, and looked extremely fierce.

The freckled boy from before was completely frightened by this person.

“This is the academy’s servant responsible for receiving us. It’s said that he’s not a magus, yet he’s already so frightening. What would a real magus be like then?”

Leylin suddenly discovered that a strong interest and curiosity about the profession of a magus had arisen inside him. It was to the point where he was itching to go to the academy now and investigate everything.

The line was really short, and it was soon Leylin’s turn. After the black-clothed, scarred man gave Leylin a piece of white bread and some juice, he wordlessly waved Leylin away with an impatient expression on his face.

If it were the previous Leylin, even if he didn’t dare to drag this guy out and lash him a few times because it wasn’t his home, his expression still would’ve turned quite ugly, and would probably have ranted at the man a bit.

But the current Leylin was naturally not that stupid. Following his memories, he formally bowed and said, “Thank you! Mister!”

The black-clothed man remained expressionless as he watched Leylin turn to leave.

“Ai! I didn’t think that Leylin would really seem like a noble after bowing!” The two youths behind Leylin couldn’t help but secretly whisper

to each other.

“Hurry up and move forwards!” The scarred man shouted, suddenly blasting the two’s eardrums.

The great sound scared one of the youths so badly that he fell down onto the ground.

Leylin ignored the discussion behind him as he surveyed the area with a cold gaze. He then bitterly smiled, “Great! I’m really an unwelcomed person!”

When he looked at George, George also hurriedly turned his head away. His hands made a secret gesture behind his back.

“Eh! Fine! Since you gave me the medicine, I won’t expose you!” Leylin sighed, then found a relatively remote place. Without caring whether or not the ground was carpeted, he sat down and began to eat heartily.

“This plain white bread isn’t as good as that from the previous world! But according to Leylin’s memories, this is already considered a food that one can only get during celebrations!”

Leylin thought as he ate.

Based on Leylin’s memories, the production capabilities in this world were quite low. The white bread was an aristocrat’s food. Normal, minor nobles could only enjoy it during celebrations of major holidays.

To typical peasants, who only had hard, nutritionless black bread to eat, this was a supreme delicacy.

When he thought of the black bread as hard as rocks from his memories, Leylin sighed, “It’s a good thing that I’m quite fortunate; regardless of whether I’m a noble or a magus, I’m still in the upper levels of this world, so I won’t need to suffer!”

He ravenously wolfed down the bread, and downed the juice in one gulp as well. Leylin then wiped his mouth in satisfaction, and returned to the carriage.

Based on the experience in his memory, noble youths would set up tents

in camp and rest for the entire night before moving again. However, it was clear that nobody would invite Leylin to join them. He didn't have a tent himself, so he could only sleep on the cold and hard carriage!

“When I looked just now, there seemed to be 50 some apprentices, 25 black robes, and 3 of the highest status white robes!”

When he thought of the the scene just now when he had been noticed from a distance, the hairs on Leylin's body rose.

Added on to that, the A.I. Chip's warnings of [Discovered an unknown radiation source!], [Received disturbance from unknown force field, impossible to scan!]

This formed a shadow in Leylin's heart!

“It looks like even with the A.I. Chip, I'm still extremely weak in this world! But it's precisely due to this reason that I desire to obtain the strength of a Magus!”

Leylin's eyes seemed to light up in flames.

“It's best if I sleep earlier! I still need to hurry on with the journey tomorrow!”

Leylin took off his jacket and laid it on the ground to make his sleeping more comfortable.

“So far, since this journey was started, it's already been over 3 months. We've passed through a few dozen kingdoms, yet we still haven't reached our objective. These ancient transportation conditions are really.....”

He closed his eyes and fell into a daze. After some time, the carriage door opened with a bang.

Leylin suddenly sat up. His nose was then filled with the scent of a rose.

It was sweet and aromatic, extremely pleasing to the nose. It also made his body throb as to invoked his memories.

“Ley...Leylin! Are you well?” A pleasant, female voice said.

“Bessita? Please come in!” Leylin moved his body.

The fragrant scent in the carriage suddenly grew more powerful as a beautiful young girl entered.

She had fair skin, and wore red, tight-fitting clothes that accentuated her voluptuous curves.

What was even harder for Leylin to forget was this girl's platinum hair and eyes like crimson jewels. Combined with her beautiful face, it presented an exotic charm.

This was the girl that caused Leylin to be beaten up, and even lose his life, Bessita!

"May I ask if you have anything to ask me?" Although this girl had developed quite well, and seemed extremely enticing to Leylin, having come from a different world and experiencing an endless barrage (of beauties), this girl was only somewhat good-looking to Fang Ming.

His attitude was extremely cold and indifferent.

It was clear that this manner somewhat shocked the young girl, as the words she was about to say didn't leave her mouth.

After a long period of silence, she pulled out a small, glass bottle and placed it in Leylin's hands, "This... this is a medicine for injuries. If you apply it to your body, it'll help you! I'm... sorry!"

The girl bowed, revealing the ample, snow-white curves of her chest, causing Leylin's heart to race.

Chapter 3: Knight

After she made her apology, the girl ran off like a startled little fawn, leaving her wonderful scent behind.

Looking at the disappearing red figure in the distance, Leylin was rather puzzled. "It was clearly Leylin who had assaulted you, why did you come to apologise? Is there something wrong with your brain?"

He touched the bottle in his hand, thinking to himself: "Did I misjudge her earlier? Could this Bessita be a kind-hearted girl?"

Leylin studied the glass bottle in his hand curiously. "It seems like they already have the technology to produce glass. Although, judging by the workmanship, it still seems rather rough, it is quite decent already!"

As he opened the bottle cap, a medicinal fragrance wafted out.

Following the habits of his past life, Leylin immediately said: "A.I Chip! Scan this medicine and analyse its components!"

[Beep! Task Established! Begin Scan!]

[Discovered unknown components. Starting simulated experiments!]

[Experiments complete! Unknown Medicine has effect of strong itching! Duration: 7 days!]

"Eh!" Looking at the results of the experiment, Leylin was struck speechless. "I retract my previous statement; that girl is rather blackhearted!"

However, he soon had the feeling of an adult being pranked by a naughty kid.

"She is still a child after all! She can't use truly malicious tricks! Perhaps if it were a few years ahead, the bottle would be full of deadly poison instead!"

Looking at the bottle in hand, Leylin thought about it and decided to keep it. "I'll just keep this for now, who knows when it might come into handy in the future!"

After Bessita left, no one else came to disturb him.

Leylin lay back down. Though it seemed as if he were sleeping, his mind was actually working in overdrive as he thought through things.

“It seems like there shouldn’t be any problems or risks of being found out by going to a magus academy. Those white robed figures should be Magi, and I have walked by them a few times without drawing attention. It seems like they are also unable to detect anything strange about me. This means... entering a magus academy should be relatively easy in that sense.”

“However, according to rumours, Magi are all secretive and cruel, at least according to what Viscount John heard. It also seems that in the academies, there is extremely fierce competition amongst the apprentices of the same level despite it being against the rules to kill one another. I need to at least have some form of self-protection.”

As he thought about that, he once again touched the ring hung around his neck, and held it in his hands.

The ring was jet black and nondescript. Within the inner ring, there was a small ‘Y’ inscribed, along with elaborate inscriptions around it.

“With the technological advancements of the Middle Ages, to be able to inscribe such a complicated pattern onto the inner ring is incomprehensible! However, regardless of the issue, as long as it has to do with the mysterious Magi, it shouldn’t be surprising at all!”

Leylin muttered to himself, and issued another command: “A.I Chip! Scan the ring in my hands!”

[Beep! Task Established! Begin Scan!]

[Discovered unknown metallic components. Comparing to Data Banks. Insufficient Data. Unable to analyse!]

“As I’d thought! With the A.I Chip’s current level, it is still inadequate to analyse something that a Magus left behind!” Leylin sighed and stored the ring.

“How can I increase my power? This body of mine is truly too weak! It cannot even compare to those of the same age. That will not do.”

“If it were my past life, I could still undergo genetic modification. Alas, there is no such option here. Perhaps I should explore this Leylin’s memory once again, and see if there are any methods...”

Leylin thought to himself once again, then found a comfortable spot to lie down, thinking out aloud in his mind: “A.I Chip! Scan the entirety of Leylin’s memory and arrange it!”

[Beep! Task Established! Starting arrangement!]

In Leylin’s former world, the world of science had always been of the opinion that the majority of the human brain’s power was not being harnessed. Amongst that power was the ability to access every memory since birth.

Some memories, even if the person in question could not recall them, were actually still stored somewhere in the brain!

Now, as Leylin gave the command, memories of Leylin’s entire life, from birth to his being chosen as a Magus Apprentice and going on this journey, were all displayed in front of Leylin’s eyes with the A.I Chip’s assistance.

Every single memory, down to what was eaten in every meal, as well as their tastes, were retained and displayed in his mind.

Such a large mass of memory was just too confusing, and was also full of useless information. In the past, Leylin had only taken what he had urgently needed, and ignored the rest.

At this point, with the help of the A.I Chip, he was arranging and sorting everything out!

[Data sorting has been completed!] The A.I Chip notification sounded out.

“Create a new file, named ‘Leylin Farlier’, and save it!” Leylin gave a new order.

[Beep! File created - Leylin Farlier!]

“New task, search the file for all possible methods for the host to improve strength quickly!”

[Beep! Task Established. Begin Search!]

In front of Leylin, innumerable amounts of data flashed past, seemingly forming a beautiful picture.

[Search Complete! Search Results - 453 methods!]

“So many?” Leylin paused a while as he thought. “Remove those with estimated success rate of 50% and below for the Host. Also, add another requirement: The Host must be able to carry out the strengthening method now. Begin filter!”

[Beep! Filter Complete. Remaining methods: 2!]

“Show them to me!”

[Method 1: Become a Magus.]

[Method 2: Begin Knight Training]

“Oh! Method 1 is not realistic at the moment; at least, not until I reach the magus academy, Otherwise, how could I possibly learn how to become a Magus? As for the Knight Training, I wonder what that is?”

As Leylin muttered to himself, he immediately assigned a new task. “A.I Chip, assemble all memory regarding Knight Training. Once it has been arranged properly, send it into my memory!”

After the data was directly transmitted to his brain, Leylin began to understand what a so-called Knight was.

In this world, there were several mysterious forces. However, the ones commoners had the most experience with were Knights!

Knights were warriors who had gone through tough training and had stimulated their inner life energy. Their physical attributes were way beyond that of a normal human.

To be a Magus, it required a specific kind of gift, and amongst tens of

thousands of people, it was possible that there wasn't even one such person. However, being a Knight was different; as long as they were willing to put in the effort, anyone could become a Knight!

For these Knights, not only were their physical attributes several times that of normal humans, they were also well versed in using various weaponry, as well as in the killing arts. Some Knights even had special secret skills that could unleash a sudden burst of power!

The kingdoms of the common world, along with the nobility, were generally made up of Knights.

The Farlier Family which Leylin was part of was also a Knight Family. The original founder of the Family had fought in wars together with the King, and had accomplished much meritorious service. Thus, they had been awarded with the Viscount title, as well corresponding holdings.

After an overall sweep of the information, Leylin remembered a scene from the past.

It was a small jungle in the Viscount holdings, and John Farlier was wearing a warrior's outfit with a stern expression on his face. He was facing the infant Leylin as he said: "Today, I will teach you the Secret Skill that has been passed down in the Farlier Family: the Cross Blade Technique and the accompanying breathing techniques. You must remember that you can never teach this to anyone outside our Family!" At that moment, Viscount John's face held an unprecedented stern look!

Alas, Leylin was still an infant at that point, and obviously did not put much thought into the matter, thus eventually forgetting it. Viscount John tried to force him into training a few times, but Leylin was so afraid of suffering and fatigue that while, even Viscount John had to give up.

"Sigh... an overly compassionate father leads to a failure of a son!" Only now did Leylin realise how the previous body's owner had become such a spoilt brat.

*TLN - Spare the rod and spoil the child

Although the young Leylin only knew how to act like a playboy and had

totally forgotten everything about the Knight Training for the Family Secret Skill, Leylin managed to recover all of it with the help of the A.I Chip.

Cross Blade Basic Sword Style: Horizontal Slash, Vertical Slash, Piercing Attack, Slanted Slash...

Footwork: Advance, Retreat, Dodge...

There was also the accompanying breathing technique. All of it appeared clearly in Leylin's mind, along with the experience that Viscount John had imparted.

The memory finally ended with Viscount John emitting white mist from his mouth as he manipulated his Cross Blade, and splitting a rock as large as a millstone in two with a single cleave!

"Hm... a Knight is considered the lowest mysterious power, yet they are already so strong! What kind of existence are those Magi who are high above Knights?"

Leylin's eyes burned with a fiery passion.

"Sigh! I have to take things step by step. I had better concentrate on this Knight's breathing technique first! Anyways, the Knight Training does not clash with Magus training. At least I'll have some measure of self defense for now."

After a detailed analysis, Leylin discovered that the so-called breathing technique of this world was very similar to the internal qigong of his previous world, but was a lot more crude. It was very dependant on external stimulations to activate the inner life energy.

"According to rumours, if a warrior goes through the Knight Training and is still unable to activate their inner life energy, the only option is to enter the battlefield and go through fierce and bloody battles. This is the only other way to trigger their inner life energy, and become a Knight!"

"A.I Chip, transfer the knowledge of the Cross Blade Technique to me!" Leylin issued his next order.

Soon after, a large amount of knowledge regarding the technique was transferred directly into his mind. It was etched deeply into his brain, as if he had been training in it since he was young.

“Isolate the Cross Blade Technique and save it into a new file, with the filename of ‘Cross Blade Technique Basics’!”

[Saved New File: ‘Cross Blade Technique Basics’]

As the A.I Chip notification sounded out in his mind, Leylin’s lips curved in a smile. With the help of the A.I Chip, his learning speed was unbelievably quick - fast enough to make any so-called genius commit suicide from shame!

“Now that I have all the memories of it, it is just a matter of finding a Cross Blade, and going through some actual practice. If all goes well, I have confidence in mastering it within ten days, bringing myself to Viscount John’s level!”

All these sword techniques are merely killing arts. The most important thing for Knight Training is the accompanying breathing technique!” Leylin muttered to himself.

“A.I Chip! According to my statistics, simulate and create the best model for me to start training the breathing technique!”

[Beep! Task Established! Host human model established! Begin simulation...]

As the mechanical voice sounded out, a 3D model of a human figure appeared in front of Leylin’s eyes. It was transparent and shimmering in blue light, and appeared exactly the same as him - a 13 year old youth with Western features, brown hair, big eyes and bushy eyebrows.

The 3D figure repeatedly started training the breathing technique, constantly adjusting the frequency, rate and magnitude. Slowly, a red line could be seen moving around in the 3D figure’s body.

After a few minutes, the simulation ended, and the A.I Chip’s mechanical voice sounded out once more.

[Simulation ended. Cross Blade Accompanying Breathing Technique - Time required for one revolution: 30 Minutes. 10 Revolutions will improve the Host's body by 0.05 Strength, 0.06 Agility and 0.03 Vitality. The improvements will gradually lessen as the stats improve!]

Warning: If the Host goes through long term training of this technique, it will result in residual damage caused to the Host Body.
Recommendation to think twice before starting.]

“Phew! This is indeed an impressive Knight Training technique! As long as I persevere, I will quickly be able to improve my power! Alas, I wonder if there is any way to remove the effect of the residual damage?”

Leylin said with a faint smile.

At this time, the A.I Chip's voice suddenly sounded out.

[Do you wish to optimise the Breathing Technique? Y/N]

“The A.I Chip actually has such abilities?” A joyful look rose on Leylin's face.

Chapter 4: Cultivation

“I never thought that this A.I Chip’s analyzing abilities could also work on the Knight breathing technique in this world!”

Leylin exclaimed and said: “Optimise immediately!”

[Optimisation initiating, estimated time: 125 minutes.]

“Yep, 125 minutes, which is over 2 hours; I can afford to wait!” Leylin felt at ease.

After waiting rather impatiently, the two hours finally passed. The A.I Chip’s voice sounded out right on time.

[The optimisation for the breathing technique has been completed. Time taken for breathing technique, 5 minutes 23 seconds, and the effects have all risen by 5%! The side effects of the injuries have vanished!]

“Very good!” This result made Leylin very satisfied.

If the effect was a 5% increase each time, then dozens of times, and even hundreds of times, would result in huge differences.

“Rumor has it that the Cross Blade Technique and the breathing technique were obtained by the founder after dozens of bloody battles, where he finally obtaining it from the corpse of a Knight. Amongst the many Knight families, it is considered to be the upper middle grade!”

“After the optimization of the breathing technique done by the A.I Chip, I’m afraid it might even be comparable to the secret scroll techniques of those smaller kingdoms!”

Leylin quietly pondered, and immediately said in an impatient manner: “A.I Chip, transfer the optimized breathing technique to the memory zone!”

The A.I Chip chip duly carried out its orders, and brought large amounts of images depicting the breathing technique back to Leylin’s mind.

After a few minutes of transfer, Leylin gently rubbed his head: “I feel a little giddy, but this is a normal occurrence!”

Right now his brain was filled with large amounts of memories about the breathing technique, and the many matching sequences of practised experience. Compared to an average person, he did not have to go on the roundabout route.

“I did not feel it in my previous life, but in this world, the A.I Chip really gives me a huge advantage compared to an average person!”

Leylin mumbled on: “With this A.I Chip’s ability to simulate and analyse, I am able to obtain the same result as a person who has to go through 10 years of hard work and experience, I only have to do exactly what the A.I Chip has presented, and I will be able to do things in the most accurate manner!”

The breathing technique had many contradictions, and some of them required more than verbal explanation to be understood.

One had to go through the experience of training, and go along some complicated paths., Only then would they be able to gain enlightenment.

But these things could all be avoided with the A.I Chip’s analysing abilities.

“I’ll give it a try!” Leylin thought, and his body laid on the floor in the shape of a cross.

According to the suggestions on the breathing technique which was presented by the A.I Chip, there was no need to have any special actions to complement it, but just to find the most suitable and comfortable position.

“First, I must hold my breath for 65 seconds, then take three long and one short breaths. The duration and frequency must be.....”

Leylin followed the description of the breathing technique, and gradually entered a state of cultivation.

He looked unconscious; his face was bright red and his temples throbbed, as if carrying out some kind of exercise.

As time passed, Leylin’s face grew redder, and eventually, he began to

perspire out some faint black coloured fluid.

After he had maintained this process for over 20 minutes, Leylin opened both of his eyes, and opened his mouth to exhale.

Phew! ! !

A black coloured breath was exhaled just like this.

Within his body, some cracking noises could be made out.

Leylin stood up and moved his four limbs. His whole body was warm, as if he had just undergone a vigorous exercise.

“A.I Chip, display my body’s statistics!” Leylin ordered.

[Leylin Farlier. Strength: 0.4 Agility: 0.5 Vitality: 0.4 State: Mild injury]

Leylin remained impassive: “Change the method of display, and move the data back by 10 decimal points. Also make comparisons with the data before the cultivation.”

With Leylin’s orders, the image flickered, and the body statistics had shown 10 more decimal points. The last three numbers had not stop changing.

[Beep! After comparison, undergoing the Knight Training increases the Host’s Strength by 0.005, Agility by 0.006, and Vitality by 0.004]

The A.I Chip faithfully relayed the message.

“Mn! Because this was the first practice, the figures are still climbing up!” Leylin analyzed and said.

“I’ve only cultivated for a bit over 20 minutes, but, the data’s increase is already rather considerable. With perseverance, it’s just a matter of time before I have the stats of a black robed man!”

“Which is to say, those ten odd black robed men are all Knights!”

Leylin thought indifferently, “What a pity. According to my memory and the A.I Chip analysis, breathing techniques have cultivation limits. The Farlier Family’s breathing technique can only be practiced once a day. Additional practice will not only have no additional benefits, but will even

cause harm to the body!”

“A.I Chip, are there any methods to let me increase the number of times I can practice the breathing technique?” Leylin asked.

[Medicinal items are required as a supplement.] The A.I Chip feedbacked.

“List all the necessary medicinal items!”

[Quinoline element, marco 21, magnesium dioxide.....] The A.I Chip chip listed a whole bunch of medicinal items, which were all from Leylin’s previous life.

“Is it possible to substitute any of them with other medicinal items or herbs?” This seemed to be an obviously impossible task, but Leylin furrowed his brows and asked anyway.

[A sample is needed to analyse the medicinal properties. As of now, the data is insufficient!] The A.I Chip chip prompted.

“As long as there is a way, then it’s alright!” Leylin heaved a sigh of relief.

He looked at his own body again. Because large amounts of sticky substance had been produced after the breathing technique training, his body felt very sticky, which was extremely uncomfortable to the touch.

Leylin frowned: “Looks like I’ll have to wash up first!”

He began to make his way out of the horse carriage. It was midnight by this hour, and the various young nobles were all sleeping soundly in the tent. Leylin quietly stepped out of the carriage and ran towards a small river that was nearby.

[Warning! A human is approaching!] The A.I Chip prompted.

Leylin pretended that he was oblivious, and continued his advances.

“What are you trying to do?” A voice rang behind Leylin.

“So fast!” Leylin pupils shrank, “I had already been aware, but I was still unable to discover that he had arrived behind me. If he has any bad

intentions, then I definitely won't be able to resist in any way!"

On the surface, he still pretended to be scared out of his wits: "Ah..... Who? Who?"

Leylin turned around his body to look back, seeing the black robed man who had been distributing the rations earlier in the day. Leylin remembered his name to be Angelo.

"Hel....Hello! Sir Angelo! I feel that I'm a little dirty, and wanted to wash myself!" Leylin face was pale, as if he was frightened, and did not even have the capabilities to speak properly.

"Wash yourself?" The black robed man furrowed his brows, and wrinkled his nose. He could indeed smell a stench coming from Leylin.

"Alright! It is rather dangerous here at night, especially for young nobles like you bunch! Return quickly after washing!"

The black robed Angelo said. Not paying anymore mind to Leylin, he turned around and walked towards the heart of the horse carriage, where his tent was.

"Thank you for your reminders! Sir Angelo!" Leylin still said with a bow, no matter whether this man had heard him or not.

Always being careful had been part of his principles in life.

After seeing Angelo leave completely, Leylin then strode forward and headed towards the small river.

Angelo walked into his own tent and pulled down his mask, exposing his scarred face.

"The substance expelled from the body after practicing Knight breathing technique? What a nostalgic feeling! Looking at these young people reminds me of my inexperienced self from the past!"

"What a pity though, if I was also born of nobility, I wouldn't need to practice the Knight breathing technique. I had even risked being part of a magus's experiment and ended up in this state....."

Angelo muttered. His shadow and the tent overlapped into one body, in-

differentiable from each other.

Along the way, Leylin casually plucked the wild flowers and plants and popped them into his mouth from time to time.

“I think that black robed Angelo must have realised something. But it doesn’t matter, a nobility practising a passed down Knight breathing technique is just a normal occurrence.”

“Furthermore, he already has the physical qualities of a Knight, so he definitely has his own breathing technique, and won’t need to get mine. Besides, even if he wanted it, it wouldn’t be a big deal. I can just write it down and give him a copy...”

Since there was such a large difference in strength, Leylin did not have any intention of protecting the secrets of the Farlier Family.

However, it seemed that Angelo did not even fancy the Knight breathing techniques from small noble families.

Chewing a grass stalk in his mouth, there was a bitter taste to it. However Leylin did not mind, and even had some nostalgic feelings of back when he was little.

[The analysis is completed, no beneficial properties towards the Host’s body can be observed!] The A.I Chip voice rang.

“Pui!” Leylin immediately spit out the grass stalk in his mouth, and replaced it with another plant.

“Take down the shape and qualities of the plant earlier and save it. Now we will proceed with another round of analysis!” Leylin commanded in his mind.

[The task is completed! Beginning to analyse the qualities! From this experiment.....] As the scene played out in his mind, Leylin could see very clearly the procedures of the A.I Chip.

[Beep! The experiment is completed. This unnamed plant has a mild paralysis effect!]

“According to Leylin’s memories, this is called the Tri-Night Grass huh,

A.I Chip! Rename to Tri-Night Grass, and save it inside the database!”

[Beep! Saving completed!]

“Mmn! This is ‘Red Fruit’, the taste is not bad!” Leylin plucked a bunch of fruits on a pile of shrubs.

These fruits were only the size of Leylin’s thumb, and they had ripened on the top of a barbed vine. Their appearances were quite beautiful.

Leylin carefully avoided the barbs, and plucked one of the Red Fruits.

He placed it into his mouth and bit down with a crisp noise. A sweet juice was squeezed out from the fruit, filling his mouth.

“Mm! The taste is the same as an apple’s, just a tad sweeter.” Leylin evaluated.

“A.I Chip! Analyse.....”

.....

Along the way, Leylin saved data about over 30 kinds of plants and herbs. Unfortunately, none of them were of any use to him.

He arrived at the small river. The ear-piercing sounds of the trickling stream of water crashing against the rocks broke through the silence of the night.

“A.I Chip! Scan the surroundings!” Leylin commanded. Even if the black robed Angelo hadn’t warned him, he still had confidence in avoiding danger with the A.I Chip.

[Beep! The surrounded area has been scanned! There are no dangers within a radius of 20 li!] The A.I Chip faithfully reported the message.

“Well, it’s good that there is no danger. I don’t want to run back to the camp midway through my washing. That will definitely make me the biggest laughing stock.....”

Leylin muttered and he took off his outer robes and underwear, entering the river naked.

The icy cold river engulfed his body, refreshing him.

“This water is really cold, I am beginning to miss the water heater from my past life!”

Chapter 5: Cross Blade

Ding!!!

Two steel swords clashed, emitting a crisp sound.

“Leylin! You are still not my match, give it up!” George used both hands and grabbed the hilt, and laughingly said.

“We aren’t done yet!” Leylin shouted, and his legs moved in a strange footwork, and once again initiated an attack.

“Hah!” George swung the long sword in his hands, which brought a sinister rustling of the wind.

The cross blade in Leylin’s hand swept, and blocked George’s attack.

“Good! Your parry posture is not bad!” George praised loudly. “Careful! My next attack will be to your left leg!”

“Bring it on!” Leylin made his preparations.

“Watch me!” George swung the two handed sword in his hands, and made a beautiful yet deadly arc towards him, sending it towards Leylin’s right leg.

Leylin retreated a step back, and blocked George’s two handed sword in midair with his cross blade, “You definitely said the left leg, you didn’t keep your word!”

“Haha.....This is called tactics! It is to test your agility. My dad has always taught me, if one doesn’t know how to scheme, then one day he will surely be played to death by others! I only want to scheme, not to be the target of schemes!”

George laughed and said, and then pulled back his huge sword.

“No more! No more! You are getting better each and every time! I wouldn’t be able to beat you after a few more days!”

Scratching his puzzled head: “Leylin! My sword technique is passed down by a Grand Knight, I put in much effort, training with blood and sweat, so much so that my teacher said that my swordplay is better than

the average Knight! Yet, you who can fight me to a standstill, how could you have been beaten by Ourin?”

“These sword techniques were taught to me by my father when I was younger, unfortunately I had forgotten it, and I’m currently trying to practice more in order to recall it!”

Leylin clenched his fists, and his face turned red.

“Once I have strength, I will definitely seek revenge viciously, and break Ourin’s legs!”

He looks like a hot blooded youngster who was filled with determination after a setback.

“My dear Leylin, I believe in you. You will definitely fulfil your wish!” George patted Leylin’s shoulder.

And with another look of pity:” Currently, with your ability, it is already sufficient to seek your revenge!”

After sparring, George had a rough understanding of Leylin’s strength.

“Right now I can deal with one or two of them, but Ourin has five members!” Leylin was fretting over it.

Actually, he was already confident in dealing with Ourin and his gang, but without an excuse, how could he fooled George into continuously practicing with him?

“Oh right, you mentioned Grand Knights earlier, what are they?” Leylin remembered George’s complaint earlier, and casually asked.

“You are talking about the Grand knights? They are one realm higher than knights. No matter where they go, they are considered a great existence! If one is lucky, a king might even be hospitable to them! And if one is willing to pledge loyalty, then they will definitely become a troop commander!”

“Their physical body has been pushed to the extremes, and rumours has it that apart from the long distance crossbow formation, even if a heavy cavalry troop were to charge at them, they won’t be able to stop them

from advancing!”

“So powerful!” Leylin muttered.

A commander of a troop has the same status of an Earl, and even Viscount John had to greet them if he saw one.

A heavy cavalry troop, is the peak of a troop’s strength in this era of medieval weapons. Once they charged, even a smaller city’s walls might fall. For a Grand Knight to actually be able to use merely their physical body to fight with them, how strong would they have to be?

Looking at Leylin who had a yearning expression on his face, George laughed out loud and consoled: “You don’t have to envy them, a magus has an even more mysterious and stronger power compared to that of a knight. As long as you become a magus acolyte, your status is the comparable to that of a Grand Knight. And if you become an actual Magus, then congratulations, killing a Grand Knight is easier than stepping on an ant. The various kings from kingdoms will all want to strive to be first and fear to be last in stuffing their beautiful daughters on your bed.....”

“A magus is that powerful?” Leylin was skeptical “ Then why are the black robes so cold to us, who have the possibility of turning into a Magus? They are naught but knights!”

“Hmm about this? I am not too sure, but a Magus’s status is definitely very high. This was told to me by my father! I can swear it upon my Borunin Family’s reputation.”

George touched his nose, and replied rather awkwardly.

“Alright! Alright! It’s not like I don’t believe you!” Leylin felt a little exasperated.

Speaking within his heart “A.I Chip! Scan the person in front of me!”

[Beep! Name: George Borunin Strength: 1.9, Agility: 1.8, Vitality: 1.9, Status: Healthy]

George’s stats could not have been achieved just by standard training.

According to him, he had trained with the knights technique since he was young, and that was the reason he was able to achieve his current physique.

Warriors who had started cultivating the knight breathing technique and thus improved their physique, but had not been able to ignite their internal life energy yet, were commonly known as Preparatory Knights!

George's physique could be considered at the peak standard even amongst these Preparatory Knights!

This was also linked to his nobility status and being able to use large amounts of expensive medicine to assist in improving his body's physique.

"Alright, we have sufficient rest now, let us head back! I do not want to return too late and find those black robes staring coldly at me!"

George looked at his surroundings, and the bright moonlight coated the surrounding with a layer of silver colour light, the tranquility of the night was occasionally interrupted by insect cries.

Leylin did not wish to attract attention during the day as they were travelling, so he sneaked out to practice with George at night.

Naturally, this did not escape the black robes, but after a few encounters, Leylin found their attitude to be extremely cold. As long as one did not wander too far away from the camp and cause trouble, they would not care about them.

"Just once more round, we'll head back!" Leylin said. "After this round, I'll return this cross blade to you!"

"En.....Eh? George was a little absent minded, and then his eyes lit up. "Are you finally done using it? Gus had been bothering me for it!"

In order to train in sword techniques, the first requirement would be to have a cross blade!

As nobility, there were many youngsters that wore warrior's robes, with a sword attached to their waist.

However, the previous Leylin did not do so, the reason being that it was

too heavy, and it restricted his movements!

Because he found it troublesome, the previous Leylin had travelled without even a dagger on him. This had caused Leylin now to be in the awkward situation where he was totally weaponless, without even a cross blade to practice with.

For the sake of practising, Leylin turned his attention to the first friend he saw when he woke up - George.

Using threats of exposing their friendship, he had made George lend him a weapon and train with him!

Thinking back when George's eyes had turned white, and had an expression as though he has met with a bad friend, Leylin laughed uncontrollably.

"Your swordplay is improving at an extremely fast pace! But do you really not need the cross blade?" George asked.

"I am rather familiar with Gus anyways so even if I were to lend it to you for a little while longer, it's not a big deal....."

"Thank you for your kind intentions! But I really do not need it!" Leylin smiled as he rejected his offer.

After this period of sparring, he had already seen through the secret technique of the Farlier's House. Furthermore, due to the the A.I Chip, his swordplay would always remain at its peak state so his skills will not go rusty due to not practicing the cross blade for a long time.

"Good, then we will fight one more match with the same rules. I will only use the same amount of strength as you will!"

As George said that, he picked up his big two handed sword and walked towards the centre of the patch of grass, his sword emitting a cold light as it reflected the moonlight.

Leylin had also walked over, "Come on! This time, I won't hold back!"

He had thought of an experiment, and had sent out the invitation in order to carry it out.

“A.I Chip! Establish Task! Analyse the opponent’s strength and the surroundings to come up with the best plan to defeat him!”

[Task Establishing. Beginning analysis.]

[Simulation results - Host is unwounded, target loses his ability to fight. Please confirm on whether to turn on the vision aid?]

“Turn it on! “ Upon Leylin’s command, countless of blue lines appeared before his eyes that, as if turning the area into some sort of virtual world.

[According to the target’s reactions, there is a 99.98% probability that the first attack will be the Host’s right arm! Most Effective method of combating this: Sidestep, Jump Slash!]

Following the voice of the A.I Chip, the blue rays of light in his retina had already formed an image of George, raising his sword and slashing towards Leylin’s right arm.

“Heh! Watch the sword!” George shouted, and as expected, he initiated the attack first, waving his two handed sword. He charged over, the motion almost mirroring the projected image.

Leylin’s lips curled, and dodged the attack, and he raised both his hands along with the cross blade. Leaping up high, he viciously swung it down.

Jumping Slash!!

“Damn! How did this happen?” George cried strangely, and ducked the cross blade with a roll on the floor.

Leylin’s cross blade struck onto the floor, which brought up some of the mud and small pieces of stones.

George got up, a serious look on his face. He felt as if Leylin had predicted his attack, almost as if he had read his motions and knew them like the back of his palm.

“If you are not attacking, then I am going to counterattack!” Leylin said smilingly.

“Bring it on!” George stared nervously at Leylin.

Leylin gripped his cross blade, took a step forward and pierced forward! Every action and movement had all been accurately performed as seen from a textbook.

George made a blocking motion, but his body moved to the side instead, and as he dodged the pierce, he countered Leylin's attack with a slash of his own!

[The best way to react: Left turn 50 degrees, Horizontal Slash!]

Following the A.I Chip instructions, Leylin dodged George's large sword, and sent a Horizontal Slash, almost slicing George as he slashed.

The more they fought, the more perspiration formed on George's face.

His every move and action had all been parried perfectly by Leylin, and his evading range had gradually decreased.

"I can't carry on like this any longer! I'll stake it all on this!" George fiercely swung his large sword, and sent it clashing with Leylin's.

Bang!!! A piece of silver light flew out and directly pierced into the grass. It was the large sword in George's hands! The blade had not stopped quivering as it let out a 'weng weng' sound.

In the sparring area, Leylin's cross blade sword had touched horizontally at George's waist. "You've lost!"

"Indeed! I lost!"

George muttered, and then immediately stared at Leylin : "How did you do that?"

"It is actually very simple, after training with you for a long time, I have already remembered the sequence of your movements!" Leylin withdrew his sword and bowed smilingly.

"The.....sequence of my movements?" George repeated.

"Yes, to put it in a simple way, everyone has a habit when they strike. As long as you can remember them, then it will be easy to arrange a trap according to the enemy's habits. I have used the same trick on you!"

“Phew!!!” George exhaled out a long breath, “I understand now!”

And then looking at Leylin momentarily, as if he was looking at a monster:” Your gift in sword technique is absolutely the best that I have ever seen!!! If you are not chosen to be a Magus Acolyte, I will definitely recommend you to go to a kingdom’s capital’s Imperial Knight Institute!”

Chapter 6: Disagreement

“Imperial Knight Institute huh?”

Leylin knew that the Imperial Knight Institute was the best knight's institute in Sarad Kingdom where George had come from. Not only were they recruiting nobilities, the entry requirements were also extremely high. It was said that only geniuses would be accepted!

“Sword techniques are only my hobby, but being a Magus is my lifelong dream!”

A Knight's strength may be great, but it was still comprehensible by Leylin's standards, not exceeding the boundaries. However, the Magi from rumors were able to manipulate the elements, including lightning and thunder. They also attained a great longevity!

A Magus's greatness obviously exceeded the boundaries of a human, and Leylin could not even imagine it.

Furthermore, every Magus is a scholar filled with knowledge. Magi had strict attitudes towards experimenting about the natural world. They tried to study the laws of nature in order to achieve a massive amount of power to use for themselves! This lifestyle was more compatible with Leylin's previous life as a scientist.

“Yes! Even if it is a Grand Knight, they can only be the servant of a Formal Magus. The strength a Magus holds is something that is impossible for us to imagine.....”

George's face turned serious, and spoke the words in a sing-song tone.

“Why is it that no matter what words you say, I get the feeling that they were spoken by a bard.....” Leylin rolled his eyes a little.

“Haha..... The reason I became like this is because my father sent me to court to undergo training for nobles!!” George resumed his previous state.

Suddenly blinking his eyes, he said mischievously: “Leylin, you don't have a fiancée right? Why don't I introduce my sister Molly to you! She is a beauty that is known far and wide.....”

“Scram!”

Under the moonlight, the two youths left the grasslands as they fooled around.

“Goodnight! George!”

“Goodnight! Leylin!”

After Leylin handed the Cross Blade to George and bid him farewell, he returned to the carriage.

The dimly lit carriage had only him inside. The interior of the carriage let off a very faint odour. The stench was a mixture of rot and sweat. Because of this, many noble youths refused to stay in the carriage any longer than necessary. Once they got to pit stops, they would escape to the grass fields outside like little wild horses coming out to play.

The concept of relationships in this world was very open minded, all the more so for nobility. With the strong perception ability of the A.I Chip, Leylin had discovered many affectionate couples around, which had led him to seek an even further location for him to train.

Using his supervision eyesight to look at the wild battle scene, Leylin’s heart burned in rage as this had made him recall the former memories of the spoilt brat.

“Who would have thought! After changing into a youngster’s body, even my desires have increased.....” Leylin smiled bitterly.

Calming his emotions, “A.I Chip! Show me my body’s statistics!”

[Leylin Farlier. Strength: 1.5, Agility: 1.6, Vitality: 1.4, Status: Healthy]

It had been over a month since he first began practicing the Knight breathing technique. Right now, Leylin’s body state had not only caught up to his peers of the same age, but had also surpassed some. Against George, he had concealed his true strength, which had caused George to gauge his strength wrongly.

“Not bad! I should proceed with today’s cultivation!”

Leylin settled into a good posture, and entered the state of cultivation.

This was his homework every day. According to the A.I Chip's instruction, after training at night, he should cultivate in the breathing technique again to have the best effects.

After 20 odd minutes had passed, Leylin was completely drenched in his perspiration, but the amount of black impurities that had flowed out were clearly less than before.

"Phew!" Leylin opened his eyes and looked at his body. He said in slight exasperation: "The breathing technique's effect is reducing, which is logical. According to the A.I Chip's estimation, Farlier House's breathing technique, even after optimising will completely lose effect by the times I've enhanced my body's statistics to 2. This is the realm of Preparatory Knights. After this, I have I must use my own power, as well as the external stimulations from near death experiences, to attempt exciting the life energy. Only then will I be able to improve again....."

Thinking up to here, Leylin took out a yellow coloured fruit out from his pocket. There were some black spots on its surface, making it look quite horrifying.

Leylin directly placed it in his mouth, and then picked out a root of a herb, munching them together.

[Beep! The Host's body is slowly recovering from fatigue. It is possible to carry on with another round of the Knight breathing technique!]

The A.I Chip's voice rang.

"That's great!" These herbal concoctions had been created by Leylin over the past month from countless experiments using the A.I chip. It could reduce his fatigue, and increase the number of times he could cultivate in the breathing technique daily.

With the addition of a few more body-strengthening medicine, the quality of Leylin's physical body had improved at an extremely fast pace.

"Again!" Leylin once again entered the state for the breathing technique.

During the past month, the travelling party had already passed several small kingdoms. Eventually, they had completely entered the wilderness.

There were very few people in the wilderness. It was only a desolate stretch of sand, with fresh markings from vicious beasts and horse mounted bandits.

Ever since the travelling party had first entered the area, they had already encountered danger several times. Although nobody had died, Leylin's sense of crisis had slowly grown stronger. He could not wait to quench his thirst for power.

When the rays of dawn shone brightly, the travelling party once again resumed its journey.

Leylin sat alone in a corner with his arms crossed in front of his chest. The youths around him had all avoided him with disgust, allowing him to have quite a bit of space.

"I don't know what method Bessita used. The people in the carriage are still isolating me. If it were a regular youngster, this would've most likely driven them crazy ages ago! It's just too bad that they met me instead!"

Leylin contentedly stretched his back. He had trained late into the night yesterday, which had made him extremely exhausted. This empty space was sufficient for him to rest for a while.

"However, this world sure is huge; the travelling party has been travelling for half a year, but they still have not reached their destination yet. We haven't seen the ocean yet either....."

As Leylin thought, he entered slumber with half closed eyes.

Ding ling ling!!!

At this time, the travelling party had already stopped. The black robed man shook the bell in his hands: "Ladies and gentlemen! It is time to get off the carriage to have lunch!"

"It's that time again?" Leylin opened his eyes. "This kind of lifestyle is really boring!"

After alighting the carriage and receiving his own portion of food, Leylin chewed on a piece of white bread as he walked towards the grassy area

beside the camp site.

He had already used up the previously gathered substitute herbs, so he was preparing to restock.

As he walked, he casually observed the surrounding plants. "This is a Jade Root Fruit, there are already files of it in the database. It is useless to me!"

"Mn! Samun Grass, this is a kind of plant that can only be found in the wilderness. It can be harvested!" Leylin plucked a dirty, brown colored stalk of grass. There were extremely sharp thorns on the grass's sides. Leylin carefully broke the blade in half and used his fingers to dab at the jade coloured liquid that had been constantly flowing out from the grass. An expression of disappointment appeared on his face as he placed his fingers in his mouth.

"I found it, Flowerless Snake Fruit!" Leylin threw the Samun Grass on the ground. As he casually walked over, he noticed, through the corner of his eye, the same yellow coloured fruit that he had eaten yesterday, growing on a shrubbery. His face expressed happiness.

"Hehe! What's this I see? Leylin! Should I be saying 'as expected from a minor noble of the village'? You're actually eating wild fruits on the roadside? You have really tarnished the reputation of the nobilities....."

Just after Leylin had plucked the Flowerless Snake Fruit and placed it into his pocket, an annoying voice was heard.

"Is that Ourin?" Leylin raised his head, and saw the murderer who had killed the previous host of this body.

Ourin had fiery red coloured hair, and there were ripped muscles all over his body. His arms were as thick as Leylin's thighs. He currently had his arms crossed in front of his chest as he smiled mockingly at Leylin.

There were a few nobility youths at his side, which had all coordinated to jest at him.

"A.I Chip! Scan their statistics!"

[Scan Complete! Ouri., Strength: 1.7, Agility: 1.2, Vitality: 1.5, Status: Healthy]

The A.I Chip feedbacked.

Looking at the data in front of his eyes, Ourin's strength wasn't bad. His strength was almost as strong as two adult men. It was no wonder that he had been able to fatally injure the previous Leylin.

As a child of nobility, as long as they are able to endure sufferings and persevere in their training daily, coupled with the breathing technique, it is not strange to achieve such results.

The nobles beside Ourin were not that strong; most of them were below 1. Leylin had even seen a pale faced youth whose stats ranged about 0.5, giving a run for money for the previous Leylin.

Mentally calculating the stats, Ourin's strength did not differ much from his. But his sword technique and moves definitely couldn't rival Leylin's, as he had the help of the A.I Chip.

As for the rest of the youths, they were only there to increase their numbers. The disparity between his stats and theirs was too huge. It would be extremely easy to deal with them, like an adult bullying a child.

"Is there a problem?" Leylin asked, his voice calm.

"You....." Leylin's reaction had obviously exceeded Ourin's expectations. He actually had no fury or fear, and that made him speechless.

"If it was the previous matter regarding Bessita, haven't I already apologised before? Bessita has also forgiven me....." Leylin added.

At the same time, his heart began to race; this could be a probe sent out by Bessita. After enduring for a whole month, had she finally been unable to endure any longer?

"That's right! It's because of Bessita! She has forgiven you, but I haven't!" Ourin spoke loudly, his hands tightly clenched into fists.

"Alright! Then what do you want?" Leylin spread out his hands, as if helpless. However, there was a glint of mockery deep in his eyes.

Ourin hadn't imagined that Leylin would be so submissive, and struggled for a long time before spluttering: "You have to make an oath to never bother Bessita again in the future!"

"Alright!" Leylin agreed immediately, and even placed his right hand on the crest pinned to his chest. The crest had a Cross Blade and a picture of a skylark on it, which was the emblem of the Farlier House!

"With my honour as a member of the Farlier House, I swear that I will never bother Bessita ever again on my own accord!"

Using a family's reputation to make a vow was the most serious oath a noble could take. Those who had gone back on their words would meet with the disdain of all nobles.

"So! Mister Ourin! Can I leave now?"

Leylin bowed slightly, with perfect noble's etiquette.

"Hold on!" It had not occurred to Ourin that Leylin would show no resistance, and at this point, his eyes contained an avaricious glint: "According to the noble's conduct, you still have to compensate. Hand over all the Magic Crystals that you have!"

"Magic Crystals!" The surrounding onlookers gasped in surprise.

"Magic Crystals?" Leylin repeated. According to his memory, the Magic Crystals were a kind of currency between Magi. They were items of necessity for Magi Acolytes with no credentials to enter the academy.

Leylin did not know the exact amount required to enter an academy, because he did not have even a single Magic Crystal on him. Viscount John had tried several methods to obtain Magic Crystals. However, he was unable to get even one. From this, one could see just how precious Magic Crystals were!

Chapter 7: Extortion

Leylin had been avoiding meaningless fights.

In his opinion, the fun of winning against others couldn't be compared to the fun of enhancing his strength through cultivation.

Moreover, there's no hatred between him and Ourin. He probably even needed to thank him for heavily injuring the original Leylin, which had given him a chance for rebirth.

Leylin was a practical person. To him, face was never more important than reasoning.

Even using the honor of his family to swear wasn't the slightest loss for him. However, Ourin's request after that had touched the bottom line.

"You.....you can't do that! Those black robed lords won't let you off!"

Leylin tightly grabbed onto the sack on his hands with a frantic expression.

"Haha.....why would those black robes barge into our matters? Don't forget, you were beaten half dead by me previously, and no one had paid it any mind."

Ourin clenched his fist, and clear cracking sounds could be heard from his bones, "If you don't want me to break your bones one by one, obediently hand the Magic Crystals over!"

As Ourin drew closer, his large frame engulfed Leylin within his shadow.

Leylin observed his surroundings; this location was already quite far from the camp. Around him were only some lackeys that had been brought by Ourin. They were all looking at them as if they were viewing a show.

"Don't bother looking, no one will come to save you....."

Ourin grinned.

"Really? That's best then!" Leylin suddenly laughed.

His silhouette flashed. When Leylin reappeared, he was already behind Ourin, “Perfect, I can take revenge for that day’s incident!”

A fierce kick was thrown out! Carrying intense wind, it kicked into Ourin’s waist area.

Ourin felt an intense force coming from Leylin’s leg, sending his body into the air!

Bang! Ourin fell to the ground, severe pain coming from his waist which made his eyes turn slightly red, “You dared! You dared! You actually dared to hurt me!”

“You’re dead! I will hang you!”

Ourin ferociously stood up, rays of blood-thirsty and savage light shooting out of his eyes.

“This is the advantage of having a good constitution?” Seeing that the kick that he used fifty percent of his strength for did nothing much to Ourin, Leylin’s pupils shrank.

“Ha!” Ourin waved his fist around like a violent black bear.

Leylin flashed sideways, dodging Ourin’s fist. When Ourin’s fist landed on the small tree behind, it actually left a deep dent. A strength of 1.7 is indeed not a trivial matter.

“Such a heavy punch. Even with my constitution, I can’t withstand more than a few punches.....” Leylin swiftly thought.

“A.I Chip! Simulate the best method to defeat him!”

[Beep! Task established! Starting Assist Mode!] A voice came from the A.I Chip. Its powerful calculation ability instantly came up with the best solution.

[Duck! Task Established! Initiating Assist Mode.] The A.I Chip prompted. Leylin immediately crouched down, dodging the roaring Ourin’s tackle.

[A flaw appeared in enemy’s defense! Most effective attacking location: Armpit!] The A.I Chip’s voice sounded.

Leylin's figure continuously flashed, dodging Ourin's attacks while also getting closer. "Do you know? Although your strength is powerful, you're not agile enough. This is the disadvantage of your body shape....."

As Leylin could still speak when he's attacking, it showed that he was still holding back.

"This.....is this still the Leylin from before? He.....why has he become so much more powerful?" The surrounding youths all opened their mouths in shock.

Under the everyone's expressions of disbelief, Leylin threw out a punch! It hit Ourin's armpit with his entire strength. Ourin, who had suffered the attack, fell onto the ground with a pained expression, and couldn't get up for a long time.

Leylin's full strength was at least 1.5, and wasn't very different from Ourin's. Furthermore, the place that he had hit was also the weak spot. Ourin fell onto the ground, his eyes bloodshot as he growled, "You're dead for sure! My family will not let you off!"

"Oh! Really?" Leylin remained indifferent towards Ourin's threat, and even gave Ourin a kick in his lower abdomen. Ourin curled himself up, like a cooked prawn.

Leylin squatted down, looked at Ourin with a face full of smiles, "Since you won't let me off anyways, do you think that it would be better if I just made the first move and killed you?"

At that moment, Leylin's smile at Ourin looked like the devil's.

"He's not joking, he really dares to take action!" Ourin saw the killing intent in Leylin's eyes. Suddenly, he felt as though he was being stared at by a tiger. The anger within his head completely vanished, and was replaced with fear.

"Mister Leylin! Lord Leylin! You can't do that! I.....I have the Dorlan family behind me. If you kill me, you'll get yourself in trouble!"

"Then do you admit your wrongs!" Leylin issued a ridiculing question.

“I admit my wrongs! I apologize..... sorry!” Under the threat of death, Ourin succumbed quickly.

“Very good, I accept your apology. In addition, according to the law of nobility, I have the rights to request for compensation!”

Leylin said smilingly which gave Ourin a bad feeling.

“As compensation, hand all the Magic Crystals you have with you!” Leylin smilingly said those words of extortion.

“Oh! No! You can’t do this! Do you know how many people have been sacrificed for my family to obtain these Magic Crystals?”

Ourin struggled to protest.

“Sometimes, it’s just a simple multiple choice question in the world. Now, it’s your turn. My dear Ourin, life or Magic Crystals, choose one!”

Leylin didn’t seem to have any reaction to Ourin’s begging. Instead, he stepped on Ourin’s face, gradually increasing the amount of force he exerted.

The boots stepping on Ourin’s face sent his head further and further into the ground, giving a suffocating feeling.

After a few minutes, Leylin released some of the pressure, “So? Have you thought through it properly?”

“Puah!” Ourin inhaled the fresh air in big mouthfuls. His face was now covered with mud and footprints, making him look hilarious.

However, none of the surrounding youths dared to smile.

One of the youths slowly began to retreat, wanting to leave this place.

Leylin picked up a pebble, [Wind estimation completed! Shooting orbit adjusted!]

Whoosh! The pebble hit the escaping youth’s leg, sending him sprawling on the ground.

“Ourin, see that? Don’t bother waiting for reinforcements..... Furthermore, don’t try to challenge my patience!”

Leylin looked at the surrounding youths. Those who had Leylin's gaze sweep past them all lowered their heads, their bodies trembling.

"Okay! I can give you the Magic Crystals! But I left them in the carriage! Follow me back to get them!" Ourin said in surrender.

"Magic Crystals are so important. You don't bring them with you, but leave them at the carriage,? Are you treating me like a fool?"

Such childish lies naturally couldn't get pass Leylin.

"It seems like you haven't had enough!" A ray of fierceness flashed across Leylin's eyes. He grabbed onto Ourin's arm and suddenly gave it a snap!

Crack!!! Ear piercing sounds of fracture could be heard, followed by Ourin's miserable scream.

"If you still refuse to speak the truth, I'll break your other arm!"

"No! No! No! You can't do this, the black robed lord won't let you off!" Ourin clutched onto his arm, rolling on the ground.

"Haha.....why would those black robes barge into our matters? Did you forget that I was beaten half dead by you previously, and no one paid any mind to it?"

Leylin coldly smiled, sending Ourin's words back to him.

"Seems like you're really yearning for death!" Leylin was just about to go up and take action.

"Wait! Wait! Fine! I'll give you the Magic Crystals, but you have to swear that you will not take revenge on me anymore!" Ourin shouted with a pale face as he saw Leylin approaching him.

"Okay! I swear with the honor of my Farliar family!" Leylin answered.

Ourin's face turned green. Struggling to a half seated position on the ground, he took out a golden coloured pouch from his bosom and tossed it at Leylin, "All my Magic Crystals are here!"

Leylin took it and gave it a look. This was a palm sized pouch made

of with gold and silver threads. In the center of it was a picture of an eagle and a shield, surrounded by many plants. It appeared to be a family symbol.

Leylin opened the pouch and saw over dozens of black coloured crystals quietly lying there.

[Beep! Discovered an unknown energy source!] The A.I Chip alerted.

“So? Can it be used?” Leylin had an excited expression on his face.

[Searching the database.....information insufficient! Method of usage not found!]

[Alert! Energy source with unknown radiation. Recommendation: The Host's body to strengthen defense!]

“So it's like this?” Leylin inwardly thought, then turned to Ourin and asked, “Which academy are you going to?”

“Wet.....Wetland Gardens!” Ourin had an ugly expression on his face.

“Wetland Gardens! I've heard before that the entry fee is ten Demon Crystals, right?”

“Correct! Where did you hear it from?” Ourin was a little surprised.

Leylin faintly smiled, looking a little mysterious. He have never heard of any Wetland Gardens before, and was only bluffing Ourin, since most of the school fees were basically all in rounded figures. It wasn't a big deal if he guessed wrongly anyways.

“Okay! I'll return it to you!” Leylin took out three Magic Crystals from the pouch and tossed the pouch with the Magic Crystals back at Ourin.

“These three Magic Crystals will be my compensation!” Although he could take all the Magic Crystal now, Leylin is still unsure of the attitudes of the black and white robes on this matter. He also doesn't want to use himself to test out their bottom lines. Thus, he left Ourin the sufficient amount of Magic Crystals for the entry fee. That way, even if they quibbled about it, Leylin had an excuse.

“Tha.....thank you!” Ourin's facial expression turned a lot better. If he

were to lose all of these Magic Crystals and wasn't unable to enter the academy, he really didn't know how he'd face his family.

"Rest assured! I won't take your Magic Crystals!" Leylin raised his head and looked at the surrounding nobles, who all had their hands tightly clenched into fists. Seeing this, Leylin couldn't help shaking his head.

"Thank you Lord Leylin!" Hearing Leylin's assurance, the other youths all felt relieved and immediately bowed.

"But! I want to request other compensation!" Leylin looked at a youth, the one that tried to escape but had been knocked down.

"The Cross Blade at your waist looks pretty nice!" Leylin looked at the youth, who looked a little frightened. Leylin then pointed to the Cross Blade at the youth's waist.

Having heard the hint, the youth hastily replied, "Lord, you can have it!"

"Haha! I won't hold back then!" Leylin took the Cross Blade from the youth. After gauging its weight, he nodded his head in satisfaction.

As a noble's sword, the quality of this crossed sword was excellent.

The hilt of the sword was decorated with beautiful flower patterns to prevent it from slipping from the hand. The scabbard was made from the skin of sharks, giving it a luxurious feeling.

Chapter 8: Alliance

“So the method of distinguishing time is very similar to the past!

Leylin thought inwardly to himself as he messed around with the crystal pocket watch in his hand.

The surface of the crystal pocket watch had fine workmanship, with twenty four small frames inside. Each frame represented an hour.

Not only did he extort a weapon from Ourin’s lackeys, but also spoils of war worth thousands of gold coin. This pocket watch was contributed by a small fatty.

As for the revenge from their family, the Dorlan family that Ourin belonged to was from the Bourbon Kingdom, which was a few kingdoms away from Count John’s territory. Furthermore, the relationships between the two kingdoms were already in a state of hostility.

Not to mention that time it took to become a Magus was at least a few years, and even sending letters back and forth would also take at least a few years.

Leylin only gave it a little thought before throwing the matters between him and Ourin’s family to the back of his head.

“This time I’ve really made a profit! Furthermore, the Magic Crystals are the currency among Magi, so they are very useful for acolytes!”

Leylin took out a Magic Crystal and flipped it around in his palm. It emitted a steady, cold feeling.

According to the calculation of the A.I Chip, although this Magic Crystal had some slight radiation, the effect it had towards the body seemed to be positive. It could enhance the body’s vitality.

“But! Ever since the news about me defeating Ourin spread, everyone’s attitude towards me has changed. Should I say that this is a world that respects the strong?”

It had already been two days since the previous incident, and the battle

results with Ourin had spread among the nobility teenagers.

Especially the scene of him breaking Ourin's arm while smiling, it had become the nightmare of those teenagers present. When Ourin returned, he immediately hid in his carriage and tended to his injuries. As for those nobility teenagers, they trembled the moment they saw Leylin and quickly ran away.

"Hi! Leylin, do you want to play together?"

A nobility girl from the same carriage came over and asked. She wore nobility attire, wearing something similar to stockings in Leylin's previous life on her long legs, giving off an alluring charm.

The custom of this world was to respect the strong. Now, Leylin felt that the atmosphere in the carriage was much better, and the others didn't try to go against him either.

Moreover, several other nobility girls also extended invitations to him.

This girl was in the same carriage with him, her name is Lilith.

"Thanks! But, I have friends coming!" Leylin said apologetically.

"Ooh! I must have been interrupting! I'll invite you later on, Jasmine and a few others are also interested in you!"

The long-legged girl tenderly smiled, raised her skirt, and made a noble's greeting, extending a tempting invitation.

"Girls nowadays are really maturing early!"

Leylin bitterly smiled in his heart.

"Haha.....what did I just see? How many times has our young Casanova Leylin been invited by girls?" An exaggerated voice came.

"How can I be compared to you? 'Satin Gold Mane Lion', your great name has spread among the female circles in the entire carriage!" Leylin rolled his eyes.

"Didn't you want to avoid me so as to not be isolated by everyone, are you no longer afraid of that?" Leylin look at the approaching George.

“You’re the hot topic in the camp now! Many girls have interest towards you. That Lilith earlier wasn’t bad either. I can guarantee you that if you just put your heart into it, you’ll be able to take her down in three days!”

George laughed, “Furthermore, I have to congratulate you on your successful revenge!” With a wave of his hand, a glass bottle drew an arc in the air and was caught by Leylin.

Opening the oaken stopper, a fruity aroma mixed with a tinge of alcohol drifted out, causing Leylin to subconsciously take a deep breath.

“Apple wine! I haven’t drank much of this in these few months!”

“Correct! Furthermore, it’s a speciality from our federation. It wasn’t easy for me to have kept it hidden till now!” George opened the wine bottle in his hand.

“To our Leylin! Cheers!!”

“Cheers!!!” Leylin smiled. Wine bottles knocked onto each other and emitted a clear sound.

“Also, thank you!” Leylin said sincerely.

George had the strength of a Preparatory Knight, and with his leadership status amongst this bunch of nobility youths, if he had taken any slight action earlier on, he could have easily settled Ourin.

However, he cared about Leylin’s emotions, and only helped Leylin increase his strength secretly. Besides that, he had hidden their relationship so that Ourin would provoke Leylin without any second thoughts. Finally, he helped Leylin complete his revenge.

This protected his pride as a noble very well.

From this, Leylin could see his meticulousness and his ability to take care of others’ feelings.

“This is no longer about winning the hearts of people, but about using sincerity to move them. I should say that it’s really worthy of Satin Gold Mane Lion’s Family, leader of the Furze Alliance!” Leylin thought inwardly.

“No need for thanks! We’re all members of the Furze Alliance, how could I have turned a blind eye at you being bullied by those northerners!!!” George laughed, downing all of his apple wine in one gulp.

“Pity! Now that we’re deeper and deeper into the wilderness, we haven’t been passing by any large cities for a long time now. Even supplies are hard to find!”

George seemed to have recalled the taste of the apple wine and had some regret.

“Right! We’re going to organize a barbeque banquet; it’ll be for our Furze Alliance. Do you want to join?”

George extended an invitation.

“Of course! It’d be my pleasure!” Leylin smiled and responded. With his identity as a noble from the Furze Alliance, he could only join this circle.

At times when one’s strength was still weak, joining circles was also a method to protect one’s safety.

It was deep in the night. The sky was filled with shining stars, pulling a silver veil over the ground.

Inside the camp, groups of young men and girls all sat together, circling the campfire as they laughed and messed around. It was very lively.

After a few months of living together, they had gotten closer to one another.

“Come, Leylin, I’ll introduce the both of you to each other. This is Yarfuan, Count Normier’s descendent!”

“Nice to meet you! I’ve heard lots about you trashing Ourin!” Yarfuan stretched his hand out as he smiled.

“Nice to meet you!” A genuine smile was drawn on Leylin’s face as he shakes Yarfuan’s hand.

“These are the sisters, Gwen and Gwylith, they are your admirers!” George led Leylin in a circle around the campfire, introducing him.

“Nice to meet you! Mister Leylin!” The sisters looked exactly the same. They each had a pair of glittering aquamarine eyes, identical voices, and some red blush on their faces.

“Nice to meet you, beautiful ladies! It’s an honor to meet you!!!” Leylin placed his hand on his chest and did a noble’s greeting.

Seeing the two girls blushing as they ran, George looked like he was about to faint.

“Brat! You’re blessed! The two of them seem to be interested in you! They are twins! Twins!” George’s hands were dancing around as he said this, with some heartache.

“Okay! I believe that in a time when supplies are starting to decline, you should have another purpose to organizing this banquet, and not just simply to search for lovers!”

Leylin said.

As for his personal needs, he was still able to restrain them. Although he didn’t mind letting them out, that also depended on the location.

“It’s good that you’re able to see this point!” George said. The smiling expression on his face disappeared and was replaced with a leader’s presence.

He strode to the center of the area and banged the silver spoon in his hand.

“Ladies and gentlemen! Sorry to bother you for awhile, but please shift your gazes over here!”

George’s prestige was still rather high among this group of people. The surrounding crowd all stopped what they were doing and shifted their gazes to the center.

“Firstly! I would like to welcome a new comrade joining us! He’s Leylin!!!” George announced in a loud voice, and clapped.

“Pa Pa Pa!!!” An intense, wave-like clapping sound could be heard from the surroundings.

Leylin got up and made a greeting towards the surroundings.

“Okay!” George waved his hand, stopping the clappings and continued, “I set up this small alliance to guarantee that every single Acolyte from our Furze Alliance would safely reach the academy and become a well-respected Lord Magus. And now, fellow comrades, trouble has arisen and it is time for us to work together!”

George’s expression turned a little solemn, and even his tone was grave. Being infected by him, the surrounding atmosphere also became a little quiet. Only George’s voice still echoed in the air.

“We are nearly out of the wilderness and are about to enter the Great Plains of Death. This is the last stage of our journey, and also the most dangerous part!!!”

“Great Plains of Death?” Leylin was surprised, and immediately searched through his original memories.

According to the memories in the A.I Chip, the current continent that Leylin was in was very vast, filled with many kingdoms and without a united name.

Originally, the Furze Alliance that Leylin joined belonged to the southeast corner of the continent. They seemed to be one of the first batches of students. The travelling party had headed North, passing through many dukedoms and kingdoms, and now already reached the north side of the continent.

After passing through the wilderness, there was a long patch of narrow plains. Opposite the plains was rumored to be an ocean.

And this piece of plains was filled with all sorts of dangers, and had always been a restricted zone for humans! Rumor was that the plains were filled with all sorts of beasts; even the most ferocious bandits didn’t dare to enter the plains. Every part of the plains was filled with corpses of mercenaries, adventurers and travelers!!

Right now, the Magus Acolyte-filled travelling party was about to pass through this Great Plains of Death, to the coastline.

“With the protection of the black robed and white robed Lords, we’ll definitely be able to pass through it!” A fat boy said as the crowd went into an uproar.

“Correct! With the protection of the Lord Magi and Knights, our possibility of passing through here is rather high! But when those Lords are unable to manage, we will encounter death. It could be me, it could be you, do you want to experience such an outcome?”

George asked.

“Definitely not!!!” The fat boy shouted as his face turned red and sat back down.

“Correct! Our motive is to reach the Magus Academy opposite the ocean, and to become well respected Magi. But the cruel screening will begin now. According to the information that my father obtained, there will be large amounts of death in the Great Plains of Death in every single Magus travelling party!”

George went on, revealing a small part of cruelty.

“What.....What should be done?” Lots of young men and women went into panic, and they looked at George with ashen faces, hoping that he would have a plan.

Chapter 9: Entering the Plains

“Of course, the reason we formed this alliance was for that purpose!”

George stated loudly.

“We’ve already discussed this with the other traveling parties. We will swap positions with them, so that our Furze Alliance can occupy a few carriages that are close to each other! We’ve also gotten the permission from the black robes!”

“Furthermore, us noble males will take turns being guards to protect the carriages! Of course, this is with the caveat that we are merely assisting the black robe Knights. As for the beautiful ladies, the logistics and cleaning duties will be up to you!”

“As for the weapons, you guys also do not have to worry. We’ve already made our preparations and even got hold of a crossbow!”

George called out his plans.

The youths of the alliance all began to talking amongst themselves, and after some discussion, most were in favour of this plan.

“Okay, we agree!”

As for the position of the captain of the guards, it was inevitable that George would take that position. Striking while the iron was hot, George began to hand out some missions.

The feast continued afterwards, but it was clear to see that most of the enthusiasm in the crowd had long since been lost.

“Originally I had planned on giving you a cross blade, but it seems there is no longer any need now!”

George held up his cup as he walked towards Leylin, pointing at the sword hilt fastened at his waist.

“Is it true that every single time a Magus troop enters the Great Plains, there are many deaths?” Leylin asked.

“Of course, the best case scenario is that only one or two will die, but

there have been times where at least ten have perished!” George shrugged his shoulders. “Otherwise why else would I spend so much money and energy in order to establish an alliance that would be dissolved when we reach the coastline?”

“Wherever you plant a seed, there will be some form of profit to be had!” Leylin laughed.

No matter what, as long as everyone grouped together, then their odds of survival would increase. And any of the surviving acolytes would definitely hold some goodwill towards George and his family. As long as one of these acolytes were to become a Magus, then the returns would be great.

But even if there were no survivors, it wasn't a big loss to him either way right?

“Aside from your swordsmanship, your intelligence has really impressed me!” George's eyes sparkled. “The things I did were all things that my father told me to.”

“Well then, are you willing to help me?” George extended his hand.

“As you wish!” Leylin laughed, linking his hand to George's.

.....

Leylin's reply to George's request wasn't an impulsive one. In fact, he had made this decision after careful deliberation.

With regards to the hidden dangers in the plains, he wasn't very knowledgeable about it. So joining hands by cooperating would be a decent proposal.

Huuuuu

The cold wind descended upon the group and hit them in the face like knife blades. With each breath drawn, Leylin could smell the fragrant smell of grass.

“It's already been 15 days since we've entered the Great Plains of Death!”

Looking back at the carriages, Leylin could see some traces of damage on it, causing him to feel quite gloomy.

The marks on the carriages were three different lines linked into one as if it was created by a single claw.

“The Great Plains of Death have dangers that even normal humans, or even Preparatory Knights would have trouble with!”

After entering the plains, although the black and white robed lords had increased the number of patrols, and for the acolytes to band together, there had still been some casualties.

The marks on the carriages had been caused by a pack of Plain Direwolves. The very moment they had arrived, the carriages had suffered a siege.

Although there hadn't been any deaths, the pack of Plain Direwolves had nearly pushed over the carriages and damaged it, giving Leylin a deep impression of them.

From that moment onwards, the students didn't dare to camp outside and all tried to sleep in the carriages! But even with that, there had still been some casualties.

Leylin's face grew dark.

Although the black robed Knights were guarding them, some of the youngsters still needed to go out to take care of their bodily needs. Alas, within the danger filled Great Plains of Death, that meant danger.

One youth had been bitten by a poisonous insect the very moment he stepped off the carriage and died.

“According to the calculations of the A.I Chip, the poison of the insect would corrode the brain within 13 seconds. There was not enough time for medical help, and even the few white robed Magus could only watch the youngster die...”

After that incident, the students would get off the carriage only when absolutely necessary. However, due to the small size of the carriage and the sheer number of people squeezed inside, the smell within was certainly unpleasant.

For the price of helping the black robed knights drive a carriage, Leylin was given the chance to get some fresh air.

Although being on the outside of the carriage seemed to be more dangerous, with the black robed Knight right next to him, it was actually much safer.

As for the carriage driving skill? Leylin only had to listen to the black robed Knight for a short amount of time while the A.I chip recorded everything.

“It’s getting dark! Everyone gather within the carriages to rest!”

A voice called out from the front, causing every single carriage to stop.

Not only was traveling at night dangerous, but it meant the horses did not have time to rest, which could lead to their deaths, and cause even more troubles.

“Your carriage driving skills are quite good!” The black robed Knight looked at Leylin and spoke softly.

“Thank you for your praise!” Leylin nodded.

Returning to the inside of the carriage, a fierce smell hit his nose the moment he opened the door. Leylin’s eyebrows creased together, but seeing the stupefied looks on the students’ faces, he could only sigh to himself secretly.

Ever since the first casualty, none of the youths had a happy look, instead, there was a mournful atmosphere. This was another reason why Leylin did not like staying inside the carriage at all.

“Leylin, you’re back!” A small freckled youngster forced out a smile as he greeted him.

“Yeah!” Leylin sat down and looked around before taking a piece of flatbread to gnaw on.

The dry piece of flatbread was chewed up inside his mouth, feeling as if he was chewing on sand. Despite its taste, Leylin managed to swallow the bread with great difficulty, but in doing so, he felt a sudden pain within his

throat, prompting him to hurriedly take out his canteen and chug down a large amount of water. After he finally finished the entire piece of bread, he heaved a sigh of relief.

After entering the Great Plains of Death, supplies were hard to come by. Even though the students had some gold coins, there were no merchants around. So in this situation, the gold coins were not much better than mere stones.

“Ley....Leylin, what’s the situation like? Just how many more days until we’re out of this damned plains?”

After Leylin had finished eating, the freckled youth asked him a question.

His words were clearly what everyone wanted to know the answer, and drew everyone’s attention as they turned to look towards Leylin.

“While driving the carriage, I talked with the black robed Knight. We’ve already traveled half the distance, so if everything goes well from here, we’ll reach the coastlines in another half a month.”

“Eh! Good god, there’s still half a month more?! What terrible days these are, I can’t even stand another single day in this place!”

The freckled youth began to pull at his hair as he complained.

“Hey, cheer up, Kassa. As long as you can take these 15 days, then you’ll reach the coastlines. Delicious fruits, fluffy bread, not to mention a comfortable bed and a warm bathroom, all of it is waiting for you!”

Even as a youngster tried to cheer Kassa up, the words seemed to be trying to cheer himself up even more than Kassa.

Dong! Dong!

A rhythmic pattern could be heard as the doors to the carriage opened, revealing George. In his armor and carrying his long sword, George looked like a handsome Knight. “Hey, gentleman! Ladies! Break time is here! If you need to loosen up a bit, just come outside. If you don’t, then please stay inside, after all, the outside is quite dangerous....

The carriage grew restless before a few red faced girls looked at each other in the eye and walked out of the carriage.

Leylin shrugged his shoulders before grabbing his cross blade, "Let's go!"

As a member of the guards, he needed to protect these ladies. Even though all he could do was to maintain his vigilance and call out for the black robed Knight to come help them if any trouble arose.

"I...I won't go down this time!" Kassa spoke out from the side as he shivered.

"Fine then!" Leylin gestured to the rest to follow him out the carriage.

Landing softly on the grass, Leylin couldn't help but to stretch comfortably outside. A beautiful scenery stretched far beyond what his eye could see. If it weren't for the amount of danger in here, Leylin would have loved this sight.

"How beautiful!" George spoke out as he watched the setting sun.

"How beautiful indeed, but also dangerous!" Leylin muttered.

"There's danger everywhere my friend! Sickness, famine, war, the world is filled with dangers like these. To us, this area is a threat to our lives, but to the white robed Magus, this is nothing more than like the garden back home!" George clenched at his sword.

"Are you trying to say that as long as you have strength, then you can obtain both freedom and safety?"

"Exactly! Take a look at Kassa, he has already lost his courage. On this road to power, he is lacking the spirit to face danger. Even if he were to safely arrive at the Magus Academy, it is unlikely that he can become a Magus. After all, studying magic is a treacherous path that is a hundred times more difficult than this plain!"

George threw a rock far into the plains, "It's time to protect our beautiful treasures now!"

Seeing George walk away, Leylin had a smile on his face, "Courage? But for those chasing the truth, prudence is also a necessity!"

“A.I Chip! Initialize scanning!” Leylin thought.

Following the order, a three dimensional scenery began to visualize within Leylin’s head, showing off the vicinity of the nearby area.

Within the light blue geographical image, a cluster of white stars. These stars symbolized the students; not a single one of them seemed to be hurt.

As for the black robed Knight, he was a flashing red light. After the A.I Chip’s analysis, it had recognized him as an existence that could threaten his host.

The final few carriages had the white robed Magus within. Leylin didn’t dare to try to use his A.I Chip to scan it in case its energy was detected and cause troubles for him.

Not too long after, every single nearby source of danger appeared within Leylin’s mind.

“Even if it’s a poisonous insect, they won’t be able to escape the A.I Chip’s scan! As of right now, this area is safe!”

This was a guarantee that Leylin could make.

Although he was a member of the guard, he would never do anything to put himself in harm’s way.

With the A.I Chip, he had firm grasp of everything happening in a 20 li radius, and this would be the biggest guarantee to their safety.

Chapter 10: Direwolf Pack

“Perfect! I’ve used up all the Flowerless Snake Fruits again, and I can take this chance to gather some more. But I’m not sure if the plains even has this type of plant...”

Leylin thought to himself as he gradually walked further from the party.

“A.I. Chip! Check my body’s stats!”

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Strength: 1.6, Agility: 1.7, Vitality: 1.5, Status: Healthy.]

A.I. Chip transmitted back the information.

“There isn’t much improvement, only around 0.1!” Leylin furrowed his brows, “Ever since everyone started resting in the carriage, I can no longer find a suitable place to cultivate the breathing techniques. Furthermore, the effects of the medicines are decreasing. According to the calculations, the optimized Cross Blade breathing technique should allow me to increase my basic physical stats to 1.9 before hitting the limit. After that, I can only improve after stimulating my inner life energy and becoming a knight...”

Leylin kept watch on the girl from the Furze Alliance from afar, as he also kept an eye out for useful herbs and materials.

After a long time, he finally looked up in disappointment.

“It is as I had feared! The conditions are too different, and the Flowerless Snake Fruits are not able to survive on these grassy plains. I can’t even find any suitable substitute herbs!”

“Hey! Leylin! It’s time to get on the carriage!” George’s loud shout came from the distance.

“Got it!” Wandering afar by himself was not only attention drawing, but also very dangerous. As such, Leylin could only give up on his plan, and return to the horse carriage.

[Warning!!! Warning!!! Dangerous creatures are approaching!!!]

Just at that moment, the A.I Chip's mechanical voice sounded out, and red warning words appeared in front of Leylin's eyes, attracting his attention instantly.

"Quick! Show the map now!"

Leylin's facial expression did not change, but he hastened his movement, reaching the limits of his body, and his right hand grasped his Cross Blade firmly.

On the virtual map that was projected in front of his eyes, there was a large group of red dots closing in on their group of carriages. The dots were slowly encircling and surrounding them.

[Beep! According to the databanks, these dangerous lifeforms have a 97.8% similarity to Direwolves!]

"Direwolves!" Leylin's eyes narrowed as he recalled the data that had been collected earlier. "Direwolf: A kind of wolf inhabiting the Great Plains of Death. Savage and cruel, they mostly hunt in packs. Their strength is estimated to be around 2-3, agility around 3-4, and vitality around 3-4."

"Such strength, they are definitely not creatures that I, a mere Knight-in-Training, can handle!"

Leylin's footsteps hastened once more, and he rushed towards George, saying in a low tone: "We have company. Trouble is afoot!"

George looked around at the surrounding crowd, and saw that most of the students were still minding their own business. He quickly retrieved his water bottle in order to hide their actions: "What's the situation?"

"A pack of direwolves! I noticed their tracks!" Leylin said quickly and urgently.

"I got it!" George drank a few gulps of water, then gave out a few simple hand signals.

The youths from their team who had been chosen as escorts were momentarily startled, but they still remembered their predesignated hand

signals. Instantly, they all got moving, pushing the younger girls ahead, and whispering into their ears. The entire process was done swiftly and silently. Although some of the other magus apprentices also noticed something was wrong and followed their retreat, most of them were still oblivious.

Sometimes, when danger arose, the only thing you needed to do was to ensure that you ran faster than your companions!!

“Let’s go!” Seeing that most of the members of their alliance had successfully retreated, George and Leylin quickly followed suit.

“Leylin, you’re unexpectedly even good at scouting!” George said in a low voice to Leylin. After all, they had spent quite some time and were familiar with each other, and he knew that Leylin would not lie to him about something like that.

Although the members of the Furze Alliance were quiet and retreating in an orderly manner to refrain from alarming the rest, some of the other acolytes were very discerning, and they quickly joined in the retreat.

Bang Bang!!

A loud piercing gong sounded out, “The Lord Magus’ have sensed danger! All acolytes are to retreat back to the horse carriages!”

One of the black robed men’s voice sounded out, thundering in all the acolytes’ ears.

The acolytes who were resting on the grass were all stunned into silence, before they all swarmed into motion, fleeing crazily for the horse carriages.

“No need for hiding anymore! Let’s run!!” George shouted as he drew his sword.

By now, all the members of the Furze Alliance had been alerted, and were already quite a distance, and the fastest amongst them had already reached the horse carriages.

“Aaawoooooooo!!!”

At this moment, a long and drawn out howl sounded out, filled with ruthless bloodlust.

All around, the wolf howls sounded; since the prey had discovered their stealth attack, they would just charge forth!!!

Streak after streak of black shadowy wolves charged after the fleeing acolytes; they were about 2-3 metres long, and their speeds were such that a shimmering black afterimage followed them.

“A Direwolf pack!” One of the acolytes at the back cried out in despair.

Just as he cried out, a black shadow pounced onto her, the large impact causing this young girl to fall to the ground. In the next instant, the merciless huge jaw filled with sharp teeth bit down viciously, tearing out her throat as she died with a despairing look on her face.

Some of the fleeing acolytes were attracted by the cries, and turned their heads to look, before they cried out in alarm as they witnessed the grisly sight and hastened their pace.

Another young girl whose face was full of tears was running and shouting: “Mummy! Mummy! I want my mummy...!”

“These pitiful youngsters, they are already beginning to lose it?” By now, Leylin had already reached the horse carriages, and could see the entire scene in front of him.

Swoosh Swoosh

Right at this point in time, seven dark shadows dashed out from the horse carriages, each wielding a huge sword the size of a man, which slashed through the air as they charged towards the direwolf pack.

“It’s the black robed knights! They’re attacking!” Leylin thought to himself.

These direwolves’ stats are about 3 each on average, and are very similar to the knights. However, humans have the ability to use weapons, along with their intelligence; furthermore, the knights should have secret skills which can greatly raise their potential and allow them to burst forth with

greater power when necessary! If it's one versus one or even one versus three, these direwolves will definitely not be a match for the knights. However, with the current numbers..."

Leylin had a worried look on his face as he looked at the several hundred red dots encircling them. "Previously, even with just nearly a hundred direwolves, they managed to get to the horse carriages, and even damage some of the carriages. With these several hundred direwolves... Perhaps today we will finally see those mysterious Magi show their abilities!"

Psh !! One of the black robed knights waved his immense blade, weaving a bright silver light in the air as he cleaved a direwolf right into two!

"Heh heh!" The knight licked the blood from his lips, looking extremely ferocious: "Come on, my little precious!"

"Thank...Thank you Sir!" The little girl who was saved kept thanking him repeatedly, the tears still on her cheeks. This was the girl who had been calling out for her mother earlier.

"Are you an idiot? Get back now!" The knight's head did not even turn as he charged forth towards the direwolves.

Only then did the little girl seem to reawaken to the reality of the situation, and ran back to the horse carriage.

"Hurry! Arrange the horse carriages in a circle to use as a defensive formation, the girls should stay behind while the boys, take up your swords and set up a defensive perimeter!"

The black robed knight who remained at the campsite shouted out.

"Alright!" George was the first to shout out a reply, jumping up onto one of the carriages to direct the alliance members.

"It's time to fight for our lives!" Leylin grasped the Cross Blade in his hands and muttered to himself.

Looking at the scene before him, he noticed that the members of the Furze Alliance had the least losses due to his timely warning; besides a few who had tripped while running and sustained minor injuries, there were

no deaths or major injuries.

In contrast, many of the other acolytes had been killed or injured, for example, he had discovered that Ourin's little party was now missing two youths, while the remaining few had all sustained some form of injuries. It seemed like they had been just lucky enough to escape with their lives.

"Alright! We've rescued all the ones who can be rescued!"

Angelo's body was covered with blood as he returned to the defensive formation, and he immediately saw Leylin, who was grasping a Cross Blade with both hands and was in a battle-ready stance.

"Aren't you afraid?" the black robed knight asked.

"At this time, being afraid won't be of any help right?" Leylin replied. His hands tightened around his sword; after all, even in his past life, such a bloody scene was not common.

"Heh heh! These direwolves are cunning and intelligent, as long as we let them know that we're not an easy target, and that they will sustain many losses to kill us, they will definitely run away!" Angelo said passively.

Although he did not know if the knight was just trying to comfort him, Leylin breathed an obvious sigh of relief.

"Aowuuu!" The few acolytes that had fallen earlier had perished by now, and with the scent of blood in the air, the direwolves went berserk and charged savagely towards the horse carriages.

"Here they come! Everyone be careful! We will try our best to protect you, but there are only so many of us and we will definitely miss some. At that point, you will have to fight for your lives!" Angelo's loud voice rang out, as he waved his huge sword, standing in the front lines together with the other knights.

"Kill!" The knights shouted out loud, and Leylin could see a faint light shining around their large swords.

As the huge blade cleaved down, the direwolf charging in front had a hole torn in its chest, causing it to roll back as blood sprayed into the air.

For a time, the dozen or so black figures stood like an immovable fortress, blocking the direwolves.

“We should fight as well! We need to help the knights and reduce their load!” George walked up to Leylin and said.

“Yes, if this continues for long, the knights will grow too exhausted to fight, and all of us will be in trouble!” Leylin nodded in agreement.

Under George’s leadership, all the men took up their swords and followed behind the knights, attacking the ferocious direwolf pack from the side!

“Aowuuu!!” The direwolf howls were unceasing, and Leylin was currently facing a 2 metre long huge direwolf.

As the direwolf continued snarling, Leylin could smell the stench from it.

“A.I Chip! Scan the battlefield and determine the most efficient method of killing!”

[Task established. Begin simulation! Begin Assist Mode!] A light flashed in front of Leylin’s eyes, and a panoramic, 3D image appeared before him.

The direwolf facing him finally launched an attack, and a gleaming claw specked with blood slashed towards Leylin, bringing along a hot wave of air.

[Host is under attack! Most efficient method of dealing with it: use the Cross Blade to block it with a 50 degree angle to the right, then pierce!]

“Ha!” Leylin shouted out as he circulated the breathing technique, concentrating his strength in his arm muscles as he followed the instructions, sweeping his sword to the right and striking the claw away.

BANG Leylin felt a shock travel up his arm from the immense impact, making him feel as though he had struck a thick piece of metal.

“This direwolf’s strength is much higher than mine, if I keep doing that, I will be exhausted too quickly. I’ll need to finish this fight quickly!”

Chapter 11: Cross Slash

Leylin was shocked by its strength after using his sword to strike away the Direwolf's claw.

The Cross Blade drew a brilliant arc. Immediately afterwards, following the path calculated by the A.I chip, he pierced out towards the Direwolf opposing him.

Piercing Attack!!!

The Cross Blade Technique was a secret technique passed down through the Farlier family, and the key point was to use a powerful centrifugal force to strike at the enemy.

At that moment, Leylin used his waist to exert power. The Cross Blade in his hands whistled as it pierced through the air and slammed towards the Direwolf.

Psh!!!

Leylin felt the Cross Blade pierce through its flesh, and it seemed as though the Cross Blade in his hands was firmly stuck in the Direwolf. The sheer impact from the blow caused him to tremble, and he tried to retract the Cross Blade.

"He!" Leylin yanked his hands backwards. The Cross Blade was pulled out violently, causing fresh blood to gush out wildly!

The Direwolf opposing him screamed miserably. It turned out that Leylin's sword attack earlier had just happened to pierce into the Direwolf's foreleg, its weakness. The Direwolf hopped backwards in retreat, and one claw seemed to have already been rendered useless.

Seeing the Direwolf escaping, Leylin's eyes flashed once, but he didn't pursue it.

"Most of the pressure has been taken on by the black robed Knights. If I run out of the defensive perimeter to chase it, that would be tantamount to me committing suicide. Anyways, an injured Direwolf will not be able to attack us again. It'll probably die after a while, or... end up as its

companion's meal!"

"Well done!" George praised loudly from closeby. At this moment, George also had traces of blood on his body. His attack posture was confident and elegant, and it looked as if he was performing rather than killing. However, he still carried an unparalleled level of strength! He was actually going up against two Direwolves and was still not at a disadvantage.

"The secret sword techniques passed down through noble families really aren't ordinary!" Leylin thought casually before he once again directed his gaze towards the Direwolf pack in front of him.

The tragic fighting between man and Direwolf continued on for half an hour. The sun slowly set, and darkness descended upon the grass plains.

At the moment, the eyes of the Direwolves were giving off an aquamarine glow. The entire campground had an eerie feel as it seemed to be surrounded by a crowd of aquamarine eyes.

"Hah... hah" Leylin gasped for breath. He now looked as if he had been fished out of a pool of blood. His face was still covered with it, but he lacked the time to even wipe it off.

Even with the A.I chip allowing him to use the most efficient methods to kill or injure the Direwolves, he still felt heavily drained from the effort.

"If even I'm like this, there's no need to speak about the other acolytes. Only the black robed Knights still have energy to spare, but even they will probably be unable to last much longer. In this situation, why haven't the white robe Magi acted yet?"

Leylin glanced over and saw that there was an empty space amidst the female acolytes at the center of the campsite. Three white robed people were sitting there, giving off chilling auras. None of the surrounding acolytes dared to be within three metres of them.

As for the Direwolves surrounding the defensive ring, they had already lost one third of their number. However, the number of defending acolytes at the front line had also greatly decreased; most had been injured and

were under the care of the girls behind.

“If I was the Direwolf King, the current losses would be enough to make me give up! There should be one final wave of vicious attacks remaining!”

Leylin’s sword flickered as it cut at the leg of a Direwolf. At the same time, he took the opportunity to pull out several berries. He tossed them into his mouth and chewed twice before swallowing.

These were the useful plants he had collected along the journey. They could quickly replenish the body’s energy, but he was running out of them.

“Aowuuuuuu!!!” Shrill wolf calls sounded, but this time, they carried a different meaning.

The Direwolf pack became more frenzied as it heard the wolf calls. It charged forward without any regard for their lives.

“It’s here, the final wave!” Leylin’s eyes shifted. He brandished the Cross Blade in his hand as he advanced.

Bang!!! Leylin felt a great force run through his hand, and the Cross Blade almost flew out of his hands.

“The Direwolves before us seem to be two times bigger than the others!” Leylin relaxed the muscles in his numbed arm, “A.I Chip, scan the Direwolves in front of me!”

[Direwolves. Strength: 2.3 Agility: 4.1 Vitality: 3.1. Description: In a Direwolf pack, there will always be those whose bodies are significantly larger than those of the same race. These will be chosen to be the bodyguards for the head of the wolves. They usually have greater strength than the others of the same race, and at the same time, undying loyalty to the head of the wolves!]

This was a paragraph that the previous bratty Leylin had read from a random atlas at some point, and it was now retrieved by the A.I Chip.

“How amazing, looks like the head of the Direwolves is also making a big investment this time!” Leylin thought, before going forward to tussle with the huge Direwolves again.

He had been a scientist in the previous world, and had thought that he was no longer hot-blooded. But now, being in this primitive society and killing the Direwolf pack made Leylin feel as if something had aroused in his body, making his blood boil.

“This is unlike the peace in my previous world; these beast-like instincts are needed for a being’s survival!” Leylin realised.

“Haha!! Come!! Come!!” Leylin had already trained the breathing technique passed down in his family to a very profound level. Now, he only needed the enlightenment gained from killing in order to stimulate his Life Force and become a true Knight!

“Kill!!!” Leylin’s eyes had a hint of red to them as he began to fight madly with the Direwolf.

At this moment in time, he finally let go completely. In every sword stroke, he vented the dread of his death in the previous world and the unease of entering a foreign world.

“Hah!” Leylin’s eyes flashed as he fought the Direwolf, seemingly having comprehended something.

The Cross Blade in his hands hacked downwards, bringing a silver light with it.

As it slashed towards the ground, Leylin’s body twisted, and strength was exerted from his powerful waist muscles. With the great centrifugal force of the Cross Blade, he made another Horizontal Slash!

The Cross Blade itself seemed to be releasing a dim light. The two slashes seemed to fuse together, forming a radiant cross!

Cross Blade Technique Secret Killing Move—Cross Slash!

A Killing Move was something that had the essence of several killing techniques inside, using a profound skill level to raise one’s killing ability.

Although it couldn’t compare to the Knight Secret Skills that increased all stats, Preparatory Knights who possessed a Killing Move could still threaten a True Knight with Life Force!

The Cross Blade viciously slashed the Direwolf's body, and opened a large wound in the shape of a cross. The Direwolf whined as fresh blood sprayed out continuously.

"Now!" Leylin's eyes shone as he charged forward.

Advance! Jump Slash!

The Cross Blade swung past, and the Direwolf's huge head was sent flying!

The surrounding Direwolves jumped in fright, and the attack slowed down. Even the surrounding black robed Knights looked over in shock.

Leylin felt a sense of contentment as he stepped on the giant Direwolf's head, and he couldn't help but roar.

"Huuu..... I've already vented, so it's time to retreat!"

After roaring, Leylin didn't choose to go forward to kill again, but instead turned around to return to the defensive perimeter. This allowed a well-rested defender to take over his position.

"I'm not an idiot. The Killing Move just now was too exhausting, and I've already vented out all the negative emotions in my heart. I should save some strength for self-protection."

Leylin received a bottle from a girl with trembling hands, and began to drink with big gulps.

By drinking water, he managed to conceal his eyes which were exuding intelligence. "I have killed the highest number of Direwolves besides the black robes. With this, no one can force me to enter the battlefield again. Next, I must maintain my strength, and witness the white robes' actions at the same time!"

Based on the collected figures, the A.I Chip calculated that there was a 98% chance of a slip up by the black robes. The Direwolf pack would thus break through the perimeter, and casualties would appear among the acolytes. At that point, no matter how much the white robed Magi wanted to stay out of this, they would have to act.

“Aowuuuu!!!” With the non-stop howling from the head Direwolf hidden amidst the Direwolf pack, the Direwolf pack’s charge became more aggressive. The ones that appeared now were the giant bodyguard Direwolves. The throat of the frontmost acolyte was torn out, and he toppled over.

“We can’t wait any longer! Activate your Secret Skills!” The black robe Angelo shouted.

At that moment, the black robes released crackling sounds as their muscles continuously expanded. At first glance, their overgrown muscles made them look like small giants.

“It’s appeared! The Secret Skills of the Knights!” Leylin’s eyes didn’t blink. “A.I Chip, collect data!”

[Beep! Task Established, Data Collection in progress!]

[Knight Secret Skill (Strength Type?): After activation, Vitality, Strength and Defense increase, Agility decreases! In the middle of Data Collection for circulation path of life energy, 43% recorded. Remaining information insufficient, unable to analyse!]

Looking at the screen in front of his eyes, Leylin felt some regret, “I still can’t understand how the Life Force of Knights is activated! But if I have a Knight-level guinea pig to dissect, then I might just be able to understand.....”

As for the black robed Knights who had activated their Secret Skills, not only did their muscle strengths increase, their defenses seemed to have increased as well. The giant bodyguard Direwolves still needed to be avoided, but the Knights used the giant sword to hack at the forehead of the normal Direwolves despite being cut by their claws.

But with the increase in giant bodyguard Direwolves, a Direwolf had finally managed to slip through a gap and charge into the crowd of acolytes.

“Ah! Save me!!” “Daddy!! Mummy!!” “I don’t want to die yet!!!”

The sound of various cries and screams resounded through the air and

the campsite turned into utter chaos.

“In the end, they’re just a bunch of thirteen and fourteen year old kids!!” Leylin sighed.

“Aowuuuu!” As if by chain reaction, another giant Direwolf broke through their defenses, landing within the area occupied by the Furze Alliance.

“Leylin! Come and kill it with me!” George’s neck was wrapped up in gauze. It wasn’t known which noble family’s young lady wrapped it. Not only was it thickly wrapped up, it was even knotted in a bow, the sight making Leylin want to laugh out loud.

“No need! Give me the crossbow!”

“This?” George removed the crossbow from his back, and passed it to Leylin, “I’m afraid there’s no use! These mongrels have thick skin and flesh. If you can’t hit their weak points.....Oh! God! Dammit!”

Chapter 12: Taking Action

[Calculation of wind speed and temperature in progress! Calculation of trajectory complete!]

Following the A.I Chip's calculated trajectory, Leylin pulled the trigger of the crossbow.

"Whoosh!!!" The powerful crossbow bolt flew out, and the strong recoil caused Leylin's arm to feel slightly numb.

"Pu!!!" The crossbow arrow entered through the left eye of the Direwolf, and exited out of its right eye. The Direwolf howled twice, crumpling to the floor.

"The advantage I have with the A.I Chip in this kind of high-accuracy work is really too great! A crossbow isn't like a bow; all you have to do is aim and pull the trigger. It's so convenient!"

Leylin compared the differences between him swinging around the Cross Blade before, and using the crossbow. "It looks like I'm more suited towards long distance attacks. This is also much safer. It's just that I still have no idea how to activate the Life Force of Knights. Could it be that experiencing a really tough battle is required?"

Leylin hadn't used a crossbow earlier. The first reason for this was to vent. The second was to make an attempt at activating the Life Force of Knights. Unfortunately, he possessed the A.I Chip as one of his cards, and had never been forced into a desperate life or death situation. Naturally, he was unable to experience the feeling of the Life Force that was activated in a desperate situation.

"Leylin! Good job!" George only responded now, and he patted Leylin on the shoulder.

"From today onwards, this crossbow is yours!"

"Thanks then!" Leylin smiled. Even if George hadn't said anything, he would still have tried to obtain the crossbow.

"Oh!!! Leylin! Leylin has killed Direwolves, lord Leylin! Lord Leylin!"

Quickly save us!”

At this point, more Direwolves charged into the campsite, and students cried out towards Leylin.

With the benefit of George’s prior preparations, the losses on their side had been the least. With George and Leylin, these two experts who were Preparatory Knights, it was considered the safest place apart from the area around the white robes.

“Hu!!!” Ourin sucked in huge breaths as he used a sword to block a Direwolf that was leaping forward. A huge force was transmitted over, causing the Cross Blade in his hands to fly away.

“I am the successor of my house! I still haven’t enjoyed a lot of things! How could I die here?”

Ourin roared. Of his surrounding comrades two had already died. Among the remaining people, if they weren’t dead, then they had already escaped.

At this moment, shouts of “Lord Leylin!” could be heard, causing his eyes to shine.

“That’s right! The Furze Alliance still has strength, and Leylin was so impressive just now. He can definitely save me!”

Ourin didn’t hesitate anymore and began to run in that direction.

“Leylin!!! Lord Leylin!!! Save me!!!”

“Well!” Leylin readied the crossbow, hearing the sound and taking a look, “It’s Ourin after all!”

The current Ourin looked embarrassing. Not only had the Cross Blade been dropped, his whole body carried wounds and he was being closely pursued by a Direwolf.

“It’s a pity! You’ve looked for the wrong person! Did you really think I would be so magnanimous?” Leylin’s mouth formed a grin.

“With the white robed Magi here, I don’t dare to take my chances and secretly kill someone! But if it’s only not being able to save them in time,

no one will have a reason to find trouble over that!”

Leylin looked at Ourin, showing a brilliant smile.

“He’ll save me! Definitely!!!” Ourin saw Leylin’s smile, and his heart relaxed. He continuously encouraged himself, increasing his running speed.

“Ohhhh!!!! Noooo!!!!” At that moment, Ourin despairingly saw Leylin shoot the crossbow, dealing with a Direwolf on another side.

“How could you, how could you do this???” Ourin’s mind went blank for a moment and he tripped on a rock, falling onto the ground.

The Direwolf behind him shot forward. Its teeth bit down and blood began to flow nonstop.....

“Thanks!!” On the other side, the girl saved by Leylin ran to him to thank him, “Thank you!”

“No need for thanks!” Leylin smiled. On the other side, Lilith looked at Leylin with her face red and lowered her head.

There was a whistling sound, and George looked at Lilith, directing a ‘you understand’ gaze towards Leylin.

“The situation is already like this, but your personality hasn’t changed, George!”

“Even if I fall into the abyss of death, you can’t stop the yearning I have for beautiful romances!” George used the tone of a martyr, speaking as if he was unafraid of death.

“You won’t die, the white robes are about to make their move!” Leylin rolled his eyes.

Even though the field was in chaos, the giant Direwolves seemed to have an amazing sixth sense. They had never bothered the three white robed Magi, forming a strange circle.

And amidst the noise, Leylin could still use the five senses that were strengthened by the A.I Chip to catch the conversation between the white robed Magi. Perhaps they themselves had not even concealed it.

“Crow! Are we still not making our move? The Acolytes have too many casualties, and that will lower our rating!” A woman’s voice sounded.

“Relax! Relax! I’ve been counting. Up until now, ten have died so far. The limit hasn’t been passed yet!”

A slightly cynical voice travelled over; it was a man’s voice.

“But it’s still reaching the limit, act quickly. I still need to determine the stability model for this technique! Dammit! The negative energy here is simply too high. It’s simply impossible to complete the construction of the ‘Tokerwuree!’”

“Then I’ll do it!” The white robed man who hadn’t spoken before stood up.

“These mysterious Magi! The mysterious people rumored to be able to manipulate the forces of nature!” Leylin’s eyes stared at the white robed man.

“All of you stupid and lowly beasts, you actually dare to bother the rest of the venerated lord Magi! Only death can be your eternal home!”

“Mazzerda –Karachi!”

With the chanting sounds of the white robed man, Leylin’s ears heard the A.I Chip madly sounding out. [ALERT!!! ALERT!!! Discovered radiation source!!! Discovered negative energy field!!! Suggestion for Host to immediately evacuate far away!]

The bright red words were so obvious, but Leylin wasn’t frightened into retreating at all. He only repeatedly recalled the chanting of the white robed man.

“This doesn’t seem to be the language used on the continent, but an ancient one instead. It seems like quite the tongue twister, do Magi use this kind of language to chant?”

And as the white robed man stood up, the surrounding Direwolves retreated, as if they had met some kind of natural enemy.

“Secondary Energy Fireball!”

After the chant was completed, a floating fireball appeared in the man's hand out of nowhere. According to the calculations of Leylin's A.I Chip, this fireball was at least one thousand degrees, and was actually causing the surrounding space to distort faintly.

The fireball left a blazing trail, and landed on the Direwolf's heart.

Boom!!!!

"Not good! Quickly crouch down!" Leylin shouted loudly. Unfortunately, it was already too late. It didn't matter whether it was the acolytes or the Direwolves in the surroundings, everyone was sent toppling over.

A loud explosion resounded, bringing with it a wave of heat.

"Puff!!! Pui pui!!!" Leylin got up from the ground, hurriedly spitting out the soil and grass in his mouth.

At this moment, he was covered in dirt, and looked like a person who had just crawled out of a muddy pit.

"According to the A.I Chip's calculations, that area should have been where the head of the Direwolves was positioned, sssss....." Leylin climbed onto the horse carriage. He looked in the direction of the area attacked by the Magus just now and couldn't help but suck in a sharp breath.

He could only see that where the fireball landed, there was now an additional pit of fire that was three metres in length and width, and two metres deep. As for the Direwolves in that area, they had already become burnt charcoal.

The Direwolves whimpered, before quickly escaping.

"He has the body of a human, and is able to attack to this extent! This, this is the strength of a Magus?" Leylin looked at the white robed Magus, eyes burning with passion, "The strength of a Magus! I must obtain it!"

"Quickly! Clean up the battlefield!" The white robed man said, ignoring the fervent gazes of the surrounding acolytes. He returned to his original place, where the two other Magi were.

When he passed by Ourin's corpse, he stopped. He took a small golden pouch from Ourin's bosom, and placed it into his own bosom.

"This.....seems to be the bag Ourin used to store Magic Crystals!" Leylin pupils shrank.

"Evaluation! Boundary! Magic Crystals!" Leylin's mind raced. "It looks like these Magi received a task, which was why they helped escort us acolytes. It seems there was a death count quota that would've lowered their evaluation and decreased their rewards if they had passed it!"

"And it seems that I had slightly underestimated the value of Magic Crystals before. These white robe Magi let the acolytes die, most likely because they had planned to take away the Magic Crystals of the dead acolytes!"

"Luckily, now that the dead acolytes have reached the danger limit already, we'll be safer from here on!"

After thinking it through clearly, Leylin's face turned ashen, "This is the world of Magi? Logical to the point of cold-bloodedness! Cold to the point of apathy!"

"Everyone, quickly pack up so we can continue our journey. The smell of blood here will attract other predators!"

The black robed Knight Angelo took off the outer clothes that had been torn due to the activation of the Secret Skill. The sweat on his face flowed nonstop, and he was gasping for air, looking slightly weakened.

Leylin's eyes flashed with light, "It looks like a price needs to be paid to activate the Secret Skill for Knights..."

"Hey! Leylin, look!" Just as Leylin was about to enter the carriage, George snuck over and surreptitiously pointed to the side.

On another black-coloured horse carriage, Bessita was hugging her legs as she sat. Her shoulder had bloody marks on it, and she looked like she had just gone through a crying session.

"Ourin has always been Bessita's number one Flower Guardian. Now

that that group is almost completely dead, Bessita's situation isn't looking very good!"

George said next to Leylin's ear, with an expression that implied that Leylin's chance had come.

"I've already lost interest in her! Anyway, we're in such danger, can't you control your lower half a little?"

Leylin didn't really know what to say. He pointed to George's collar, and on those clothes were marks from a girl's lipstick. He really didn't know when this beast had been able to fool around.

"Hehe....my brother, it's only in this kind of dangerous moment that we Preparatory Knights can show our might! And girls will always show goodwill towards the man who saved them. This is the most basic of techniques!"

George took out something that was similar to a handkerchief from his bosom, smugly showing his harvest. "Can you see? Just today, I've already won the goodwill of three ladies....."

"Yeah...." Leylin had nothing to say.

When thinking of his playboy past, "It seems that the previous Leylin always used force when he met a girl he liked, seriously....."

"Alright, it's time to set off!" Leylin saw the black robed Knights gather the acolyte corpses together. They took out several Magic Crystals and passed them to the white robed Magi, before hurriedly changing the topic.

Chapter 13: Arrival

“The Death Prairie is indeed a place no ordinary person can cross!”

Leylin sat in the carriage as his body constantly jolted up and down. The tiny window opened as a golden ray of sunshine peeked in, giving the interior of the carriage a trace of liveliness.

It had already been over ten days since the attack of the Plains Direwolves pack. During these ten days, the travelling party encountered an increasing amount of danger as they ventured deeper into the plains.

Only now did Leylin find out that the Plains' Direwolves were merely at the bottom of the food chain. There were still many more cunning and vicious predators above them.

On the way, Leylin saw several animal colonies whose numbers were not inferior to that of the Direwolf pack from before.

Besides the Plains' Direwolves, there were flocks of huge black birds that were several meters tall and even enormous monsters, dozens of meters long, which looked like sabre-tooth tigers, except their bodies were like tiny mountains. Just their aura alone caused Leylin to feel suffocated.

Fortunately, the deaths of the apprentices seemed to have reached the limit and the white robed Magi had started to act. Not only did they set up magical defensive arrays on the carriages, they also directly stepped forward to disperse the animal groups that attacked. Through these measures, a large number of casualties was prevented.

The most dangerous time was when they confronted the monster that was dozens of meters long.

Thankfully, that small mountain-like monster seemed to possess some intelligence and knew that the white robed Magi were not to be trifled with. It quickly left after a short confrontation and did not unleash any attacks, causing everyone in the travelling party to sigh in relief.

“It's time!” Leylin took out his pocket watch and looked at the clock hand. It had already reached the 3 o'clock position.

He stood up and opened the front door of the carriage. A moist breeze blew towards him, bringing a salty smell with it. It smelt very fresh and clean and Leylin could not help but deeply breath in a few times before seating himself besides Angelo.

“Good afternoon! Sir Angelo!”

“Good afternoon! Such a courteous noble gentleman!” Angelo did not turn as he directly handed over the horsewhip and reins to Leylin, “Good timing, I need to rest for a while!”

Leylin chuckled as he received the horsewhip and skilfully urged on the carriage.

Angelo leaned to one side as he unclasped a bottle at his waist. When he opened it, a strong alcohol smell floated out, and as he lowered his head to take a gulp, his eyes narrowed in joy.

“We are about to reach our destination. Based on the fact that you’ve helped me drive the carriage for a month, I can answer two of your questions!”

Leylin was just enjoying the view on both sides when he heard Angelo’s voice sound out.

“Alright!” Leylin lightly smiled. He had specially tried to get into Angelo’s good books and this was one of the reasons why he had done so.

“Then my first question is, what will there be at our destination?”

“Some temporary tents set up by the various magus academies. Over there, all of you can freely choose an academy to join based on your interests and also undergo an even more accurate aptitude test!”

Angelo looked a little impatient as he answered, “These things will be explained by the great Magi when we arrive, don’t waste your opportunity!”

“An accurate aptitude test?” Leylin was stunned. Soon after, he recalled that they had only managed to identify his talent in magic initially before being sent onto the carriage by the viscount. As for how good his talent

was in comparison to others, he did not have the slightest inkling.

“Temporary tents set up by the magus academies? Looks like this is similar to the school recruitments of my previous world. I wonder what the requirements are.” Leylin silently thought to himself.

“Alright then! My second question! In your heart, what is a Magus!”

Leylin asked his second question.

“A Magus? They control enormous power and pursue the truth, with equivalent exchange as their doctrine. Brat, don’t daydream of obtaining any free benefits from a Magus, or else the flames of desire will gush out from the abyss and punish your soul!”

Angelo’s face twitched as if he had thought of an unfortunate event, while his voice became extremely low.

“Pursuit of truth, equivalent exchange? I like it!” The corners of Leylin’s mouth formed a smile.

After answering, Angelo seemed to have lost all interest in talking. He ferociously chugged down two mouthfuls of the potent alcohol as he lowered his head and closed his eyes. Ten minutes later, the sounds of snoring could be heard.

Leylin dully gazed at the scenery to his front. Although the plains were very beautiful, after a whole month of looking at the same things, he now felt like throwing up at the sight of it.

“This is.....”

As the carriage continued to advance, the green in the distance became less and less. In place of it was a vast blue, and wave after wave of strong winds.

“We’ve finally arrived, the Death Beach!”

The sleeping Angelo opened his eyes and looked at Leylin, “We’ve reached our destination!”

As they neared the sea, a small town-like place appeared at the end of his line of sight.

Numerous tents of various shapes and sizes stood together, and they formed a huge camp. Surrounding them were dozens of carriages similar to the one Leylin was driving.

And what numbered the most were acolytes of similar ages as them, around thirteen to fourteen years old, each and every one of them carrying looks of curiosity on their faces. Leylin did a rough estimate, and counted that there were at least hundreds of them, filling up the entire camp. From time to time, some acolytes walked out from the tents, many different expressions adorning their faces.

“Alright! Ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to the intermediate stop of our travelling destination, the Death Beach! You will all decide on your future academy here, and then return back to your respective academies with your teachers to practice magic!”

The horse carriage halted, and three white robes came out and gathered the acolytes, then the leader Crow began speaking.

“Now, follow me into the campgrounds, and choose an academy. Remember, you may check on all the various academies, but once you have signed a contract to join one, you must not renege! Anyone who disobeys will be hung to death at the gate of the camp!”

Crow’s frosty words made the acolytes hearts turn cold.

“Haha! Crow! You guys are pretty late today!” A voice sounded, and a fatty walked out from the camp grounds. He too was wearing a white robe, and he greeted: “Don’t scare these adorable newbies!”

“There were some difficulties along the way!” Crow explained.

“Alright! Newbies! Now follow me into the camp!” Fatty spoke with Crow and the others for a while more, then turned his head and shouted to Leylin and the rest.

“You guys can call me Jevon, of the beautiful Ennea Ivory Ring Tower. Trust me, if you are to choose an academy, the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower is definitely your best choice!”

Jevon said, as he brought the acolytes into the camp.

Once they entered, various sounds travelled into their ears, reminding Leylin of the marketplaces in his previous world. As for Crow and the other two white robes, they seemed to have something else to do, and they soon left the group.

The surroundings were bustling with activity, mostly due to acolytes just like them. Some of them had gathered in a circle, while there were others who were entering or exiting the tents.

Jevon brought Leylin and the rest, a total of 40 odd people, into the middle of the camp grounds.

Here, was a large tent of pure white colour, and there were still strange flower patterns on the outside of it. They seemed like both ornaments, and yet resembled writing as well.

Leylin could not help but look at it closely, “A.I Chip! Begin Scan!”

[Beep! Forming Image!] The A.I Chip sent the information, but in the constructed image, there was nothing on the white tent, as if the pattern had never existed before.

“How could this be?” Leylin stared at the tent once again with disbelief.

With every passing minute and second, the patterns on the tent seemed lifelike, constantly twisting itself.

“Hehe!” “Haha!” “Ji ji!”

Various noises travelled to Leylin’s ears. The surrounding lights seemed to distort itself, and Leylin looked at his own hands. At this point, his arm seemed to have been pulled into a long shape, which looked extremely slender.

“Leylin! Leylin! What’s wrong with you?” At this point, there was a pat on Leylin’s shoulder.

Leylin’s whole body suddenly quivered, and he came to his senses. Looking at the surroundings, the acolytes were still listening to Fatty Jevon’s speech, and everything seemed to revert back to its normal state.

“Could it be that it wasn’t an illusion earlier?” Leylin got scared, “A.I

Chip, reproduce the situation I was in earlier!"

[Beep!] A pale blue light display appeared, and the series of images earlier appeared continuously in front of Leylin's eyes, [An anomaly in the cerebral vessel, an immediate inspection is proposed!]

[An anomaly is found in the Host's condition! Staying away is advised!]

[The Host body has returned to normal!] Numerous lines of data kept emerging, which let Leylin know that it was not an illusion earlier.

"Phew.....Magi, are they always this mysterious?" Leylin wiped his cold sweat off, still carrying a lingering fear of the events earlier.

"Leylin! Your complexion is really bad! Could it be that you have fallen ill?" George asked from the side.

"No matter who, their expressions won't be any better if they had experienced that earlier!"

"Not.....Nothing.....Where did Jevon stop at?" Leylin hurriedly digressed.

"Oh! We need to fill in a form, and take the aptitude test! And then it will be free time, and we can choose our academy autonomously!"

"Because you guys have come a day late, you only have a day's worth of time left, and in this span of period, you must choose an academy where you will practice magic in, if not you will have to wait until next year!" Jevon was still speaking loudly ahead of them.

Now, all of you line up and take the form from me one by one, and then enter for the test!"

Jevon sat behind a white table, and took out a stack of forms and placed them down.

The line moved forward quickly, and very soon it was Leylin's turn.

"Fill in your particulars in this form, and then enter the tent and follow the instructions of the person inside!"

Leylin took the form, and realised that it was made of sheepskin paper. The particulars required were minimal, only a name, age and location

born, as well as a few others.

Picking up the goose feather pen on the table, Leylin filled in the form very quickly.

The faint, red coloured, inked flower patterns on the sheepskin seemed to be very beautiful.

“I never thought that this brat’s handwriting from the mainland is still pretty good!” After Leylin finished writing, he picked up the sheepskin paper and entered the white tent.

“Come over!” An ancient voice sounded.

It was very spacious inside the tent, and there was only a white haired old lady sitting on a black chair and a crystal ball which rested on a table.

“Okay! Why would I suddenly think of those divination witches!”

“Hello!” Leylin greeted the witch.

“Bring the form here!” Clearly, this witch was not having any of it, and her voice was still frosty cold.

“Leylin huh? Place your hands on the crystal ball!”

Chapter 14: Aptitude Test

Leylin followed the witch's instructions and placed both of his hands on the crystal ball.

Icy cold! Vibrations!

A strange tactile feeling was transmitted from the tip of his fingers.

Leylin's head hurt, as if there was a glass rod stirring inside.

Along with the start of his headache, the crystal ball in front of Leylin also emitted a faint glow.

"Very good! Don't let go! The witch stared attentively at the crystal ball.

As the pain increased, the crystal ball in Leylin's hands also grew brighter, "No! No more!"

Leylin clenched his teeth, and the pain that practically split his brain into two caused him to loosen his grip uncontrollably.

"Okay! So you are at this level?" The witch nodded her head. She took out a goose feather pen and scribbled on Leylin's form.

"We have categorised the aptitude of the acolytes into five grades, with the first grade as the worst and the fifth grade as the best. You are at the third grade, a middle ranked grade!!!"

The witch said as she turned a ring on her hand and made a strange mark on the sheepskin, which had been shining brightly with light.

"My examination here is over, you go on behind me! Next!!!"

Seeing a young girl with freckles entering the tent, Leylin took the sheepskin paper, stood up and gave his thanks, and then lifted the hanging curtain of the tent, heading to the next procedure in line.

The area was still as spacious as the one earlier, and in the middle, there was a white bearded old geezer.

"From the layout of this tent, there should only be two tests. It is really simple!" Leylin thought, as he sat in front of the old geezer and handed the

form over to him.

“Third Grade? Not too bad!” The white bearded old geezer stroked his chin, “Alright! Now to test for elemental affinity!”

The old geezer knocked on the tabletop and it split open, and a black basin rose from the centre.

This water basin was not smooth. It seemed to be made of stone, and there was a kind of liquid metal flowing inside that resembled mercury.

“Carefully look into the water!” The old geezer’s voice sounded, seemingly carrying an authoritative tone.

Leylin could not help but to divert all his attention towards the centre of the water basin. With his constant focus, the mercury in the middle swirled continuously and turned into a whirlpool, as if a mouth had opened at the bottom.

“Now, tell me, what do you see?”

Leylin’s eyes were a little glazed over, “Shadows, and a black coloured whirlpool! And there are red spots near the outer circumference!”

“Anything else?”

“There are also green specks of light in the surrounding area!”

“Is there a lot of green?”

“Not at all! Very little!”

“Okay!” The old geezer snapped his fingers, and Leylin suddenly came back to his senses, “What happened to me!”

“Your test is already over! In the aspect of elemental affinities, you have the highest affinity with the Shadow and Dark elements, after that is the Fire element, and you also have a smidgen of affinity with the Plant element!”

As the old geezer spoke, he rapidly filled in the form and added his handprint.

“Let me give you some advice! Magi are able to use every kind of energy!

But only by following the path you have the highest affinity with, can you progress the furthest!”

The old geezer handed the form back to Leylin, “Alright! Your test is over. Walk out from the back entrance and start choosing your academy!”

Leylin bowed, and then left the tent.

As he lifted the canopy at the back, a ray of sunlight came shining down.

“A.I Chip, reproduce the state I was in earlier!”

[.....An unknown interference has caused the host to enter a state of hypnosis!]

“As expected!” Leylin’s face darkened, and then he exhaled helplessly, “Thankfully, the other party does not have any bad intentions, if not.....”

Deep in his heart, his thirst for power only grew more intense.

“Hey! Leylin!” George’s voice rang beside his ears, “You finished your aptitude test too?”

George’s voice travelled over.

“Yeah!” Leylin nodded his head and waved the sheepskin paper form in his hands.

“I have completed it too, hehe! I, this young master, am a genius with a fourth grade aptitude!” George laughed loudly, wearing an excessively smug expression!

“I am not too familiar with the grading of acolytes, could you explain it in detail for me?” Leylin asked.

George’s family was much greater than Viscount Farlier’s family, and he was able to know more secrets regarding the Magi.

“Of course! This is all common knowledge. No matter which academy you enter, there will be people who will tell you.” George said.

“The aptitudes of the acolytes are ranked according to the chance of being promoted to a proper Magus, and they are categorised into 5 grades! And the fifth grade is the highest, with a 90 percent chance of becoming a

Magus!”

“The fourth grade is slightly inferior, but there is still a 50 percent chance! I, this young master, am a genius at this level! Haha.....My father will definitely be elated!” George digressed, he was clearly too excited.

“And the rest? Hurry and say it!” Leylin punched George’s shoulder and finally brought George back on track.

“Oh? Earlier I mentioned up to the fourth grade. What’s below it is the third grade, where there is a ten percent chance of becoming a Magus. As for the second grade, there is only a 2 to 3 percent chance, and the first grade is the worst, with only a 1 percent or even 0.1 percent chance.”

“Anyway, there is only a chance for third grade and above. As for the first and second grade, basically, they can only be an acolyte their whole life!”

“So that is the case. It seems like my grade is middle ranked. There should be no academy that will reject me, nor would they regard me as important!” Leylin analysed his current situation.

“How about elemental affinity?” Leylin continued asking.

“Elemental affinity is the future path of a Magus, you know, some Magi can manipulate lightning, some Magi can manipulate fire, and some others can even manipulate frost! These are all paths of choice.”

“Although a Magus is able to use any type of elemental spell in theory, the ones with the highest affinity will not only let the casting speed be faster, but also contain more power. If a Fire element Magus wanted to cast a water-based spell, not only would he consume more spiritual energy, but the might of the spell would also weaken greatly. There could be a water-based pool summoning that ends up as only a water ball!”

“All in all, the elemental affinity will determine the path of a Magus, and the aptitude will determine how far a Magus can walk on that path!”

George concluded.

“The last sentence makes perfect sense, but it doesn’t seem to be yours!”

Leylin repeated the words of the last sentence.

“He he! You found out. These are the words of a travelling Magus! I saw them in my father’s study room.” George said embarrassedly, as he scratched his head.

“Oh right! I finally managed to inquire as to why the black robed Knights were so cold and distant!”

George seemed to have remembered something, and was itching to share the news.

“The strength of a Magus, even if he is only an acolyte, is not something a Knight can withstand, so don’t you think that the black robes’ performance when we journeyed was a little strange?”

“There is indeed something strange about it!” Leylin nodded his head and asked with a conjecture, “Could it be that they have some background?”

“No! No! No!” George shook his head, “My dear brother, you are guessing in the completely wrong direction; these black robed Knights are actually one of the experiments of a Magus!!”

“An experiment!!!” Leylin’s eyes widened. In his world, conducting a live experiment had always been a taboo for science, and even if there were any, they were done in secrecy. But here, they had actually done it so openly and aboveboard.

“In the process of the experiment, this batch of experiment samples had already sustained an overdose of radiation and would not live more than several years. That was why they were used as disposables, to escort acolytes like us!”

“This was the reason?” Leylin thought of Angelo’s pale face, and silently nodded his head.

Earlier, the A.I Chip had scanned and detected traces of radiation, but the radiation discovered on the white robe Magi were a hundred times more concentrated, so Leylin naturally thought that there was no effect.

“For us Magi, we will be acolytes at least; which knight would not want to prostrate themselves and hope that we pick them to serve us in the future. The only ones who will not take us seriously are those who will not live for longer than a few days!”

George said with some regrets. His face was indignant, it seems like, as a heir to a large noble family, he was displeased with the rude manners of the black robes from before.

“I heard that for the guys from the West, not only had they been treated like young masters by the knights along the journey, they had even slept with some of them!” George’s dissatisfaction only lasted a moment, before it turned into a vulgar expression.

“Slept with some of them?” Leylin was a little more awake, “There are also female knights?”

“Of course, although female knights are generally quite muscular, a few have practiced some unique techniques so they still look pretty good!”

“Also, a female knight’s stamina is rather good and can withstand all kinds of treatment. Especially during intercourse, her pair of toned thighs wrapping around you, that feeling is too wonderful for words!” George’s current character was that of a lecherous swine.

Leylin recalled his memories. The brat of the past was also a playboy, but obviously he could not compete with George who was from such a large noble family, so he had indeed not touched a pretty female knight before.

There were several female knights under the Viscount, but they all had bulging muscles, which made Leylin feel revolted.

Shaking his head, he did not wish to discuss the contents of this matter with George.

“I understand now. Let’s go and choose our academy!”

“This! My father has already chosen for me, I’ll be attending the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower. My family has a relationship with one of the senior Magi inside.....Why don’t you come with me too!” George gave an

invitation.

Leylin was a little tempted, but seeing the ring on his neck, he still hesitated,

“Earlier, that Magus never said which academy the ring could help me get into. What if it turns into a restriction instead?”

“No! I wish to walk and look around more!” Leylin declined politely.

“Alright then, I am going to carry out the procedures. You can come to the area for the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower to look for me!” George waved his hands and squeezed into the crowd.

“Where should I go? I don’t care anymore; let’s check out the academies first!”

Leylin strolled aimlessly around the camp, and saw all sorts of interesting tents with strange shapes and sizes. Some were like a giant mushroom, where a small fan shaped door opened in the middle, and some might very well have used some sort of strange horned devil skull, where the acolytes can walk into the tent through the devil’s ferocious mouth as though they were stepping into a haunted house.

And at the front of all these different buildings were marked with words.

“It is the language of the mainland, that’s still fine!”

Leylin took a look, saw some of the academy names, and memorised them, “Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, Mercifura Academy, Wetland Gardens”.....

Chapter 15: Acolytes

Under the various academy names, there were details such as specialisation areas, and famous Magi, for the acolytes to consider.

“All these are for us to choose an academy according to our elemental affinities!”

Leylin nodded his head, “My elemental affinity with the Shadow and Dark Elements is the highest, Fire is secondary, and lastly the Plant Element is the most negligible unless I want to stay as an acolyte my whole life!”

“And.....” Leylin took down the magus ring that had been hanging around his neck.

“A.I Chip! Scan the patterns on the ring, and compare them with images of the academies I passed by before!”

[Beep! Mission initialising, beginning to scan. Scan complete, comparing with database.....]

[Comparison completed. Similarity level: Abyssal Bone Forest Academy 67.3%, Mercifura Academy 54.4%, Sage Gotham’s Hut 23.1%]

“So these three academies have the highest probabilities?”

Leylin stroked his chin, “From the various introductions of the academies, I remember that Mercifura Academy specialises in the Fire and Plant Elements, as well as the creation of Magic Artifacts. Sage Gotham’s Hut is not known for famous Shadow and Dark Element Magi either.”

“It seems like the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is the best choice? They’re famous for their specialisation in the Dark Element, and is also a pioneer in the research of souls/spirit force? .”

“But this Abyssal Bone Forest Academy! Why does the name sound like a cult from the previous world?!”

“It seems like a Shadow and Dark Element affinity user like me can never get close to the light!” After thinking for a while, Leylin still decided

to take a look no matter what. At the very least, one cannot hinder their progress based on a name alone.

“I remember the recruiting area for the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes; it seems to be on the east side of the camp!”

Leylin walked for about 10 minutes and finally reached a tent that was constructed with numerous white bones. The words on top were arranged to form, “The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy welcomes you!” These big words were all written in red and dripping blood, which scared many of the surrounding acolytes away, and seeing this made Leylin rather speechless.

“Why would they construct such a scary looking scene? To frighten people? They could have at least done it after signing the contract; otherwise all the acolytes will be scared away!”

Leylin shook his head, and walked into the tent of white bones.

As he entered, a cold aura that reeked of blood engulfed Leylin and made his hair stand on ends.

“He he he.....After waiting for long, finally one comes!”

“Where are you? Who is speaking?” Leylin received a shock.

“Excuse me! You are stepping on my hand!” The voice travelling from beneath Leylin’s feet, which made him jump in fright.

Only then did he realise that his shoes were stepping on a withered palm. Leylin hurriedly jumped away, “Sorry, Sir!”

“No worries, but could you move your feet? They are stepping on my right leg now!”

Leylin then realised that the ground inside the tent was uneven and there were many dried bones littered about, and earlier he had unsuspectingly stepped on some.

As Leylin moved backwards, the few dried bones of hands and legs began to assemble into a skeletal figure.

Taking a closer look, there was a faint layer of skin on top of this

skeleton which had covered the bones and on the skull where the eyes were, two green light flickered faintly, which was extremely terrifying.

“I’m sorry! Sir!” Leylin gulped and hurriedly apologised.

“No matter!” The white bony teeth clacked and produced a human voice: “Let me introduce myself, I am a professor of the Shadow and Dark Elements. You can call me Dorotte!”

“My most respected Sir Dorotte, hello!” Leylin bowed once again.

“You coming here, does that mean you wish to enter the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?” The bony white Dorotte conjured a black robe from nowhere and concealed its body within it, which soothed Leylin’s nerves a little.

“Before that, I wish to see the rules set by the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!”

“Alright!” Dorotte took out a dusty sheet of sheepskin paper from behind and handed it over to Leylin.

According to the ancient agreement, after choosing our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, you are receive the right to partake in the basic lessons of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, a set of elementary meditation techniques, 5 years of residence, lodging, and food free of charge. We also allow you to use Magic Crystals as remuneration, to exchange for knowledge from the professors.....”

Dorotte spoke nonstop while Leylin read rapidly and compared with the information constantly presented by the A.I Chip.

He discovered that what Dorotte said was the exact same as the information on the sheepskin paper. In terms of basic hospitality, it was pretty similar amongst the various academies.

The feedback from the A.I Chip also indicated that although it could not successfully scan the person in front of him, Dorotte had unintentionally released a fluctuating radiation which implied that Dorotte’s strength was above the 3 white robes of the travelling party, and this startled Leylin.

“I have understood the basic terms now, may I know what kind of payment is needed to enter the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?”

“Thirteen Magic Crystals or an item identical in value!” Dorotte said.

“I will use this item to exchange!” Leylin made up his mind, and withdrew the magus ring hung around his neck.

“You seem to have an interesting toy!” The green flame in Dorotte’s eyes flashed.

The bony white hand took the ring and placed it in its palm, and then took out an item similar to a magnifying glass and inspected it.

“Mn.....It is indeed rather interesting, I haven’t seen these patterns in a long time!”

“A low grade Magic Artifact! It looks like it was created in our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and there is a carved inscription of a Hastening Spell Formation, but it is broken. It’s worth fifteen Magic Crystals!”

“Now! Newbie, are you willing to mortgage this ring for your school fees? Once you have decided, sign the ancient contract of our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” Dorotte said, with an accentuated tone.

“I accept!” Leylin’s resolute voice sounded.

“Good! I hereby declare that the contract is formed!” Dorotte said, “Hand over your form to me!”

After receiving Leylin’s form, Dorotte laughed, “Shadow and Dark Element affinity, no wonder you chose our academy. In this Death Beach, we are the most outstanding!”

“Since you forked out a greater amount than the fees required, I hereby announce that you have been accepted and won’t need an entry test! Take this card! Go back and rest. Tomorrow we will proceed with our journey back to the school!”

Dorotte took out something that resembled a metal card. Leylin received it and saw that a number ‘9’ was written on it.

“It is over just like this? Don’t we have to sign a contract or something?”

Leylin asked casually.

“Ha ha ha.....Never once was there someone who dared to deceive a magus!” Dorotte sniggered, and it gave Long Chen the chills.

“Then I will leave first, Sir!” Leylin bowed and walked out of the tent. He went to the area behind the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy tent.

Behind the recruitment area of these academies, there were rows of wooden huts erected, and in the middle, youths of both genders were walking in and out of them. They seemed to be there as the temporary residence for acolytes.

“Hey! Nice to meet you, are you new here?”

Creak!

The wooden door that was numbered ‘6’ opened, and an acolyte with red hair and blue eyes walked out from it and greeted Leylin.

“Hi! I am Leylin!” Leylin smiled.

“Ha ha! I am Beirut. As for my family background it isn’t very important, since it cannot be used on another continent!” Beirut seemed to be very amiable.

“Come! Let me introduce you!” Beirut headed towards the various fan shaped huts, “Fellows! We have a new companion!”

Several acolytes streamed out from the wooden doors and gathered together. Leylin counted a total of seven or eight people.

“Good afternoon! I am Kaliweir of the Lance Empire, a fourth grade acolyte!” A boy who seemed to have an air of leadership did a self-introduction.

“You seem to be pretty late!” Kaliweir said.

“We met with some troubles along the way, in the Great Plains of Death!” Leylin said ambiguously, not wanting to say much.

“The Great Plains of Death? It is indeed very dangerous!” Kaliweir looked at the acolytes behind him, “Let me introduce them!”

“This is Beirut, whom you have met earlier!”

“This is Hancock, a third grade acolyte!” A largely built Caucasian guy scratched his head in embarrassment, looking simple and honest.

“This is Raynor, a fourth grade acolyte!” He was a small boy with a skinny build, but there was a tinge of pride in his eyes.

“This is Guricha, a second grade acolyte! And over there are Nyssa and Dodoria, both first grade acolytes!” Although Kaliweir had restrained himself, Leylin could still detect signs of disdain in his words.

First grade acolyte, second grade acolyte, they could basically only be an acolyte their whole lives so one couldn't blame him for shunning them.

“How.....How are you!” Guricha forced a smile and greeting. As for Nyssa and Dodolier, they were both little girls, and some baby fat were still on their cheeks. At this point, they glanced downwards.

“Who is that?” Leylin pursed his lips.

Beside their small circle was a boy dressed in black, his face pale. Standing at the side, he did not seem to fit in with the rest and looked rather arrogant.

“He! He is Jayden! Our genius of this semester, a fifth grade acolyte! Becoming a Magus is only a matter of time! Kaliweir's expression turned sour, and he seemed to have some bitterness in his words.

“Woah.....a fifth grade acolyte. He has a 90 percent chance of becoming a Magus! No wonder he is so arrogant!” Leylin thought, inhaling a breath of cold air, and couldn't help but to give Jayden a few more glances.

“Hmph!” As if noticing the crowd looking at him, Jayden silently harrumphed and entered his own wooden hut. This wooden hut obviously had a larger surface area, and the adornments were more exquisite.

“As a fifth grade acolyte, his treatment will be the best Who knows, there might be some professors looking to take him under their wings early!”

Kaliweir face soured even more.

Leylin realised that this group of acolytes was split into a few cliques. The third grade acolytes and fourth grade acolytes were superior to the lower grade acolytes, but rather inferior to Jayden, the fifth grade acolyte.

As for the lowest grade acolytes like Guricha, they all stuck together pitifully and formed a clique. And then there was Jayden, who was segregated away from these two groups.

“Hello everyone! I am Leylin, and my aptitude is.....third grade!” Leylin said.

“Welcome!” Kaliweir revealed a smile on his face, while Guricha and the two girls seemed to have their self-esteem lower as they greeted him and returned back into their huts.

Chapter 16: Chernobyl Islands

“Don’t bother with them, their highest potential will only be that of a third grade acolyte!”

Raynor said with disdain.

“Yeah! That’s right, to acolytes, aptitudes are more important!” Leylin agreed.

Although this group of youths was pretty silent during the forming of their cliques, he naturally did the thing that would benefit him the most.

Amongst the acolytes, Jayden had the capability to be independent, but Leylin did not have such a good aptitude, so he could only join a group. Also, by comparing, naturally it was the group with Kaliweir’s as the head with a better future.

“Haha.....Welcome! Welcome! With your participation, our group is now more robust, there will definitely be a day where I will make that person regret!”

Kaliweir said while clenching his teeth. Afterwards, a few of them arranged to meet after dinner, and they went back to their respective huts.

“Beirut, what did you mean earlier when you said it was a different continent?” Leylin looked for the most amiable, Beirut, and asked him as he was concerned about what Beirut had said earlier.

“Oh..... This, you know! Actually the continent we’re on is rather small. To the outside world, it is known as the Chernobyl Islands!”

“Island??” Leylin gaped. According to his journey in the past half a year, he could almost be certain that this continent was as huge as the Eurasian Continent he was in from the previous world. But it was only an island here?

“Oh! Sorry! Geography is my weak subject, and it has often made my home tutor shudder in rage!” Leylin explained.

Truth be told, the Farlier Family is only a noble family, and its heritage

was pretty short. It couldn't be compared to the nobles of those huge families, so not knowing was not a rare thing.

“Ha ha!” Hearing Leylin speak, Beirut laughed jovially, “Me too! I have made 5 etiquette tutors leave in rage! In the end, my father offered a monthly salary, but still no one wanted to teach me. This was something my father had specially told me right before I left!”

“Let us continue on the previous topic, we are in the Chernobyl Islands, and the outside world has coined another name for it: The Barren Islands!”

“Barren?” Leylin was a little skeptical, “There are still quite a few people here and plenty of kingdoms, could it be that it is referring to the lack of certain resources?”

“That's right! In the Chernobyl Islands, due to the environment here, or some external factors, the land here is unable to produce any of the materials a Magus needs. Apart from the earnest acolytes and Magi in seclusion, there are absolutely no other traces of Magi here on this continent!”

“So that is the case!” Leylin nodded his head, and although there were myths of Magi back in his homeland, only the founder of the Farlier Family has seen a Magus. From this, one can see the rarity of Magi.

“And so, we need to go to the other side of the seas before we can truly find a continent! I heard that not only are there various kinds of resources that Magi need, but there are countless traces of secrets, and remnants of experimental labs. On the whole, the continent has various academies and organisations that trade and exchange the information of magic!”

“On that continent, Magi are not a legend! Although they are still uncommon, even a regular human may be able to see one! Only there can we advance in the progress of our acolyte abilities!” Beirut's eyes gave off obvious signs of yearning.

“So that is the case! What is the name of that continent then?” Leylin asked.

“I don't know!” Beirut shook his head, “That continent is too huge! There

was never a unified name for it. As for us, we're going to the north of the continent, and it is known as the Narrow Coastal Regions of the North! Just the North Coastal Regions alone is several times bigger than the Chernobyl Islands that we're on!

"Siii!!" Leylin sucked in a breath of cold air.

"So huge???"

"This world is indeed very vast. The higher one stands, the further one can see! This is a phrase from a bard that I like very much." Beirut concluded.

"Thank you for your explanation! I think I need some time to digest the information!" Leylin bade his farewells and returned to his own hut.

There was a metal plaque on the yellow wooden door where a "9" was written, and it looked to be rather rusty.

Pushing the door open, an odour of rot and rust invaded his nose.

Leylin uncontrollably sneezed twice.

"It looks like this is just a gathering point, so the accommodations are rather simple!" Besides a bed and chair in the wooden hut, there was practically nothing else.

Leylin found a cloth, wiped down the chair, and then sat on it.

*** Creak! Creak! *** The wooden chair creaked continuously, which made Leylin worry that it would be crushed into pieces in the next moment.

"Lucky it is just for a night! In this condition, it would be better to clean up a little first!"

Leylin pat the dust off his body and walked out of the wooden hut. He had made plans to meet with George and the others, and since he had already chosen his academy now, he should tell them so that they could properly write to each other in the future.

For the batch of acolytes that Leylin was in, they were considered one of the later groups to reach the camp. After Leylin's batch had chosen their

schools, the various tents of the academies seemed to have fewer people visiting them, and it looked to be much quieter.

“Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, it’s here!” Leylin walked to the back of the student quarters, and blocked the path of a familiar girl from the same travelling party.

“Hi Lisa, do you know where George is?” Lisa was a red haired girl who had matured early; one could already see the fine curves on her body.

“Ley..... Leylin!” Lisa blushed, as she had a good impression of Leylin, who had helped several acolytes along the journey a number of times.

“George is in room 13, I’ll call him for you!” Lisa picked up her skirt, and rapidly ran off.

Whiffing the perfume that was lingering in the air, Leylin’s heart trembled.

“Leylin!” This lecherous thought was very soon broken by a joyous voice.

George had obviously taken a bath and changed his clothes. He had also shaved his mustache, and gave off a very refreshing look.

“Have you finished choosing your academy?” George said loudly, as he patted Leylin’s shoulder.

“Yes I did, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” Leylin replied.

“Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” George touched his chin, “I heard from my female seniors that it seems to be famous for its Shadow and Dark element magic! I hope you won’t piss in your pants because of a skeleton during the night!”

“Female seniors?” Leylin shook his head, and had even more admiration for George’s abilities for seducing women.

“Hehe.....Those who are able to participate in the aptitude test are all of nobility, and it just so happens that I met a distant cousin, an elder female cousin!” George laughed smugly, as if having earned something.

“As for the skeletons and whatnot, I think we’ll see them not only at night, but even in broad daylight!” Leylin laughed bitterly, as he had signed an acolyte contract with a skeleton not too long ago.

“No matter what, as long as you know the location it’s fine! Let’s keep in contact in the future!” George said seriously, a big change from his smug expression earlier.

“Let’s keep in contact!” Leylin nodded.

“Oh yeah! Do you know where Bessita went to?” George asked suddenly.

“Bessita?” Leylin shook his head.

After the previous attack of the wolves, the vibrant and beautiful girl had been much more silent, but at least she had endured and safely here arrived.

“Yeah! I heard from other companions that her aptitude wasn’t that great, only that of a second grade acolyte, so she entered the Wetland Gardens Academy!

“I know now! Thanks!” Leylin was not too interested in the affairs of this girl.

Although she was the one the previous Leylin really admired, to him, a girl of thirteen or fourteen years of age was only a child! And the previous encounters were just a child’s mischief.

“How is it? Do you feel a little wasteful because you were unable to get her in your hands.....?” George once again changed back to having a lewd expression.

“Scram.....”

After another one to two hours, the sky had already darkened. Leylin was in the camp of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and enjoyed the dinner provided by the academy with the other acolytes.

This time the dinner was extremely sumptuous, and because they were leaving tomorrow, they were generous with the portions.

Various fruit juices and wine, fragrant barbecue chicken, fish sauce,

truffles, fruits, and salads had all satisfied the belly of Leylin who had not eaten much ever since he appeared in the grasslands.

The acolytes were eating and drinking within several groups, and Leylin's eyes looked towards the corner and found Professor Dorotte and Jayden standing at a corner. Jayden also spoke a few words to him occasionally.

"Having a fifth grade acolyte in this semester, we are really lucky!"

Beirut tore a huge strip of chicken thigh off the barbecue, and gave it a huge bite.

"Ever since Jayden arrived, Professor Dorotte and him have spoken on a few occasions, I wonder what they are talking about?"

"For acolytes, the aptitude will greatly determine the progress of a Magus. What Professor Dorotte is doing is rather normal. Beirut, eat your barbecue chicken!"

Kaliweir's voice turned cold, and only after seeing Beirut drink the fruit juice and lowering his head did he turn his gaze back on the barbeque.

"Although the aptitude is important for a Magus, it isn't everything. Only the accumulation and comprehension of information is the true motivator and key to the rise of the Magi's powers!"

A third grade acolyte added.

Although it was the truth, the atmosphere in the group darkened as they saw Jayden and the professor chatting away. The group silently ate their delicacies, seemingly having lost their appetites.

"Ha ha..... Guricha, hurry, what happened, what happened next?"

On the other side, the lower aptitude acolytes sat in a circle with Guricha was in the middle, narrating a risky adventure.

He had eloquence, and was humorous in his speech. Nyssa and Dadoria held their tummies and laughed coquettishly, as if they were two happy skylarks.

Compared to them, this side was pretty silent.

The group looked at each other and craned their necks, listening intently. However, only Kaliweir retained his prideful expression.

Seeing that even the fourth grade acolyte Raynor could not bear to go over and listen and seemed afraid of losing face, Leylin laughed silently.

“After all they are just a bunch of kids!”

After dinner time was over, the group bade their goodbyes and went back to their respective huts.

After today’s simple cleaning, Leylin’s hut was barely accommodative. At least there was not as much dust as before.

Leylin lay on his bed without removing his clothes, and he stared blankly at the ceiling as if he was lost in thought.

“I finally entered an academy! It is also time for the cultivation of Magi to open its doors for me!”

Chapter 17: Dirigible

Clang Clang!!

An alarm sounded, produced by the ringing of a copper plate, waking Leylin up from his deep slumber.

He opened his eyes. A hint of sunlight shone through the window, landing on Leylin's shoes.

"It's already morning?" Leylin got up, hastily washed up, and went outside.

"Good morning!"

"Good morning! Leylin!" Beirut had two dark circles around his eyes and kept yawning.

"The conditions here are the worst! There are actually fleas and fungi on my blanket, my god! I cannot remain here for a moment longer!" Voices of complaint sounded from time to time.

These acolytes were all of noble birth and their daily accommodations had not been lacking, so naturally they were suffering now.

Today, everyone was lacking sleep and had dark circles around their eyes.

Although Leylin could not sleep at the start, he had managed to fall asleep later in the night. Right now his vigor was greater than the others, and he still had an inclination to walk around.

The whole campground seemed to be bustling with activity. There were many who were taking down the tents, and the floors were littered with rubbish.

As Leylin silently walked around, many thoughts crossed his mind. "Every year at this time, there will be batches of acolytes risking their lives to come here and walk on the path of a Magus. And right now, this is just my starting point!"

"Gather around! Gather around! Everyone gather according to your

academy, and the respective professors will take charge! Do not wander off!" A white bearded geezer shouted in the centre of the campgrounds.

His voice, however, was extremely piercing to the ears, as he used some kind of magic to make it resound throughout the camp.

"This has a much higher pitch than a trumpet from the previous world!" Leylin rubbed his ears, which felt like they had been trampled on, and hurriedly went towards the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy gathering area.

"Hey! Leylin, you're back? Kaliweir was looking for you earlier." Beirut greeted him.

During his short time here, Leylin had only managed to match the various faces with their names, but he had the best relationship with Beirut.

"My apologies! I strayed a little far and had forgotten to keep track of time! Did Kaliweir need something?"

Leylin revealed an apologetic expression.

"It's nothing! Dorotte asked him to make a head count, so you'll just have to tell him later. Right now he is being smug about it!" Beirut shook his head.

"Alright! How are we going to leave, by ship?" Leylin looked over at the distant blue seas with boundless horizons, but there were no traces of any ships.

"Not only there are no ships, from a geographical point of view, we are not in a suitable location for a port." Leylin was filled with suspicion.

"I guess so? However, it might take another half a year to get to another continent!" Beirut scratched his head.

"Transportation in the ancient times is a little too behind in technology, needing around 1 year just to travel to school. Time cannot be wasted just like that; it needs to be used efficiently!"

Leylin touched the 3 Magic Crystals that he had snatched from Ourin, which were in a leather pouch hung around his waist, seemingly deep in

thoughts.

“Taking a boat? What naive thinking!” A frosty voice travelled over, bringing ridicule along with it.

“Jayden?” Leylin looked at the approaching black robed student.

“We are close to the Death Seas; any random fish in it is able to kill a Knight! Not to mention enormous beasts, and even ancient creatures, they all loathe the ships of humans and often bring storms and waves to them. So we would just be courting death if we were to take a ship!”

“A fish with the ability to kill a Knight?” Leylin widened his eyes. Right now he was still a preparatory Knight, and if what Jayden said was true, he would die if he were to fall into the sea?

Leylin delved into his subconsciousness and retrieved his body statistics.

[Leylin Farlier. Strength: 1.9, Agility: 1.9, Vitality: 1.9 Status: Healthy]

In the Great Plains of Death, Leylin had analysed the wolves’ flesh and had also belatedly discovered that their eyeballs contained a special component that complemented the Knights’ breathing techniques, so he had collected many of those eyeballs.

And with the contribution from these direwolves, Leylin had now reached the limits of a preparatory Knight.

According the analysis of the A.I Chip, when the stats have all reached 2, they have twice the strength of an average adult and is also at the bottleneck of a Preparatory Knight. Only by igniting their internal life energy can they get over this bottleneck.

Clenching his fist tightly, a strong force was controlled within his palms.

“Right now, if I were to hold a cross blade, I have the confidence to fend off against a squad of common soldiers! But even a Knight whose strength is above mine cannot defeat a mere fish in the Death Seas?”

Leylin was a little skeptical of it, “It could be that Jayden has exaggerated things, but the Death Seas containing dangers that even apply to Magi is a fact!”

“A.I Chip! Is it possible to scan the seas nearby?”

[Beep! The radiation surrounding the host body is excessive! Unable to scan due to interference of an unknown force field!] The A.I Chip replied.

“Radiation? Unknown force field?” Leylin looked at Dorotte, who wasn’t too far away, and had some understanding.

“In this continent, the Magi population is scarce and there isn’t much interference from radiation, so the A.I Chip is able to scan up to a 20 li radius. But acolytes and Magi professors are present in this camp, which is why the interference is too strong, and hence the A.I Chip has limitations with its scanning abilities!”

“Right now, what is the furthest distance you can scan?” Leylin’s face darkened.

[Beep! Precise scanning range: Within 300 metres radius from the host’s body! Vague scanning range: Within 1000 metres!] The A.I Chip replied duly.

“Hu.....” Leylin exhaled loudly, “Not too bad! This distance is enough to warn me of dangers! However, after reaching the other continent and the academy, this scanning range will most likely shorten once again!”

[To increase scanning range, please raise the level of the A.I Chip!] A message was sent from the A.I Chip.

“I can still level up the A.I Chip?” Leylin was ecstatic.

“Raise level!”

[Beep! The energy required is lacking, please replenish!] The robotic voice sounded, and brought Leylin down from Heaven into Hell.

“Damn!” The A.I Chip has already disappeared from my original body so how can I retrieve it to replenish energy? Then again, even if I managed to, where am I going to find energy?”

Leylin held his head, and recovered after a while.

“Forget it, since its level is able to rise, I can just find a way in the future. As for now, its current functions are enough for me!”

“What did Jayden say to you guys earlier?” A voice sounded, and brought the absent-minded Leylin back to reality.

When Leylin recovered, he discovered that Jayden had left without him knowing, and Kaliweir was now beside him.

“Him? He just spoke about setting off! I reckon he was bored, after all, not speaking to anyone all day is rather stifling!” Beirut surmised.

“Yeah, that’s true!” Kaliweir nodded his head and then looked at Leylin. “We’re about to set off, don’t go anywhere now. If you were to board the wrong ship, it would be rather troublesome!”

“Ship?” Leylin looked at the surface of the sea, and still didn’t see any signs of a ship.

“Haha!” Kaliweir laughed loudly, “Who said it had to come from the water.”

“Look!”

Following the direction that Kaliweir pointed to, Leylin and Beirut raised their heads and gaped.

On the horizon, 3 massive white ships were slowly floating towards them.

As the ship approached, a massive shadow covered the whole camp, and it seemed as though darkness had descended upon the earth.

“Oh! Look!” “My god!” “How beautiful!”

The other people in the camp had also discovered the abnormalities, and many raised their heads, exclaiming in awe and shock.

“How is it? This is one of the Magus’ mode of transport, a Dirigible! We will be riding these soon!” Kaliweir said rather smugly.

[TLN: (Dirigible) Type of aerostat or lighter-than-air aircraft that can navigate through the air under its own power]

“All these were just told to him by Professor Dorotte, so what is there to be gloating about?” Jayden reappeared out of nowhere, and said blandly.

“Dammit!” Kaliweir stamped his feet.

The 3 Dirigibles constantly got closer and slowly lowered themselves onto the ground outside the camp, under the various cheers of the masses.

“En! They are rather similar to the blimps from my previous world, and each one has a very large aerostat gasbag on top of it, I wonder if they are filled with hydrogen gas?”

Leylin had some experience from his previous world, so he recovered from his astonishment faster than others, and pondered over the construction of the Dirigibles.

The pure white Dirigibles landed on the ground, and let out thunderous growling noises.

The doors of the Dirigibles then opened, and a few white robed Magi walked out from them. There were also some movements within the camp, a few old geezers also walked out and exchanged words with them.

“Alright! Everyone bring all of your belongings and follow me. Don’t wander off on your own!”

Dorotte had a black cloak on, and the silhouette of his body was concealed within it. He began to gather the students.

The acolytes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy all scrambled and ran back to their little wooden huts to fetch their belongings.

Leylin brought very few things with him. His belongings only consisted of a water sack, a leather bag, a cross blade hung from his waist, and a crossbow slung over his back.

The acolytes fervently left the campgrounds under the guidance of the professors of their respective academies, and they gathered into individual groups based on their academy.

“Alright! Listen to me! Pay attention to the names mentioned next! Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, Wetland Gardens Academy..... All of you will board the Dirigible on the right, numbered ‘332’. Don’t miss it! Professors please take note of the number, and acolytes, follow your professors!”

“As for Mercifura Academy, Kerita Academy.....Your Dirigible is in the center, numbered ‘955’.” The voice continued.

“..... Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Sage Gotham’s Hut..... Yours will be the one on the left, number ‘455’, don’t mix it up now!”

As Leylin finally heard Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, he could not help but to glance at the Dirigible on the left.

As he approached it, he realised that the Dirigible was simply too enormous. The aerostat gasbag at the top seemed like a gigantic rugby ball, casting its shadow on the ground.

“Acolytes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, follow me!” Green flames flickered in Dorotte’s eye sockets, and behind him were two figures, which seemed to be his servants or subordinates.

Leylin walked in the centre of the group and glanced around.

Under his keen observation, he noticed a few familiar faces from his travelling party. They also noticed him and smiled at him in response, also speaking to some fellows beside them. They all had excitement written across their faces.

At the far right, George waved vigorously when it was his turn to board the Dirigible, and entered the Dirigible.

“From today onwards, the acolytes will all go their separate ways!”

A hint of sadness surfaced in Leylin’s heart, but it was suppressed very quickly.

Chapter 18: Conflict

Very soon it was Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's turn, and Dorotte led the way, stepping through the door first.

The acolytes hurriedly followed. When Leylin put more force in his legs, there was a sturdy reverberation coming from the floor beneath his shoes, as if he was stepping on a limestone floor.

"What a strange material! It looks like wood but it's sturdier, is it some kind of alloy?"

Leylin looked at the greyish, patterned floor and couldn't help but think about it.

"We're here! This section of the corridor, from number '13' to '32', is the area designated for our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, you all can allocate on the rooms on your own. Remember, my number is '14'. Look for me if you need something!"

After he finished talking, Dorotte turned, and his black cloak fluttered as he entered his room with the two servants.

"Alright! Now let me designate the rooms!" Kaliweir stood out and said.

"Hng!" Jayden harrumphed and casually picked a room, number '18', and walked inside.

Kaliweir's face turned red, and then white. He clenched his fist several times, only to put it down. "Good! Jayden chose room 18. Next, Beirut, you will be in room 15, Raynor you're in room 16....."

Jayden left, and the remaining acolytes, Beirut, Raynor, and Leylin, were in the same clique as Kaliweir. As for Guricha and his group, they did not dare to object at all.

Leylin was allocated room 20. He didn't say anything, and hurried into his cabin.

The room was rather small; it was just a partition. There was enough space for a bed, but hardly any room to stand at all.

This reminded Leylin of the beds on the trains in his previous world, which were also as cramped, with barely enough room to stretch his limbs.

“Having a bed is considered good; I was just sleeping in my seat when travelling in the Great Plains of Death!” Leylin comforted himself.

“Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome to the Dirigible, I am your captain - Kirkwul Kroft Leebar, I wish you all a pleasant journey ahead!”

“There are a few announcements of note. Apart from the Professors, the rest are not allowed to walk on the decks unless you wish to go flying down from the skies!.....The cafeteria is in Hall 1, and Hall 2 is where the washrooms are. As for Hall 3, it’s a lounge; everyone is welcome to go there!”

A low pitched male voice rang throughout the room. Leylin looked around and noticed the sound was coming from a yellow bronze pipe, but did not know if it was an air duct or megaphone.

“We’re taking off!” Leylin felt weightless for a moment, and the ship swayed. He hurriedly scrambled towards a window.

This window was only the size of a soccer ball and was very thick, so it was hard to see what was outside.

Following the Dirigible’s ascent, the ground became smaller and smaller, and gradually, the camp in Leylin’s view turned into a black dot.

Leylin placed his cross blade and crossbow aside, and laid on the bed.

“I heard Professor Dorotte say that the journey will last for roughly a month, what a long period of time! Half a year has already passed since I left my family, but we still have not reached the academy yet!”

Absentmindedly, Leylin shut his eyes.

“Ding.....Ding Dong.....”

A melodious note rang, waking Leylin from his sleep. Leylin climbed out of bed and looked outside the window, and was greeted by darkness.

“It is already evening!”

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening!” Right now, the cafeteria is providing dinner. Today’s menu is: Foie gras with truffles roast chicken, white bread, squirrel meat.....”

This time, the pleasant voice was that of a female’s.

Leylin rubbed his stomach and hurriedly stood up. He straightened his clothes and ran towards the cafeteria.

The corridor was rather dim and there was a small lamp every few steps, which produced a yellowish glow.

The surrounding wooden cabin doors opened, and acolytes came streaming out from them.

Right now, Hall 1 was already packed with acolytes but Leylin did not see any of the professors there. He wondered if there was a special room for them.

On the ceiling of the hall was a very large white coloured rock, which emanated a bright white light, just like a miniature sun.

The cafeteria was filled with long tables and white chairs, and it looked a little like a university canteen.

“Hey! Leylin, here!” In a corner, Beirut beckoned to him, sitting with a few other acolytes from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

“I’m here!” Leylin collected a silver coloured tray and cutlery, and after deliberating, he picked up a slice of white bread, a fried chicken drumstick, fruit salad, and a bottle of apple cider, and sat beside Beirut.

“You guys sure are early!” Leylin greeted them.

“It’s you who’s late, could it be that you overslept?” Beirut said teasingly.

Leylin sat down, and gulped down half a bottle of apple cider, “Yeah, I did oversleep a little!”

Looking around the surroundings again, “Are we also travelling with these acolytes?”

At this moment, besides the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes, the

hall was also filled with acolytes from other academies. These boys and girls sat together according to their respective academies and seemed distant towards one another.

“That’s right; we are on the same Dirigible with Sage Gotham’s Hut, and a few other academies! As for Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, they are headed in a completely different direction from us, so we could only go our separate ways!” Raynor explained.

“So it’s like this!” Leylin said with a tinge of regret. “George and the others have all boarded the Dirigible on the right, and it looks like the distance from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is rather far. I think there’ll be some problem with communication next time!”

After eating dinner, the masses returned to their own rooms to rest.

Every day, apart from eating meals and sleeping, there did not seem to be anything else to do. This boredom lasted a whole fifteen days.

One evening, the groups did not wish to go back into that tiny cabin room after eating dinner, so they sat around the table and started to chat.

“Beirut, what’s wrong with you?” Leylin looked at Beirut, who seemed to be in slight discomfort, and asked.

In these ten days, Beirut, who was the reincarnation of a chatterbox, had spoken of topics ranging from his family tree, to how a dish in the capital was created, as if he was speaking fondly to a lover.

Leylin and the rest had already adapted, from being annoyed at his words to getting used to them, and now it was the only joy on this boring journey.

“Yeah! I still want to listen to your past relationships!” Raynor began to jeer.

“I have finished saying everything!” Beirut rolled his eyes, “I cannot think of what to talk about anymore!”

“I’m so bored!” Beirut lamented.

“Endure it; it’s only another half a month away! It was quite a distance

from your home to the campground, so how did you spend your time all that while?" Leylin encouraged him, albeit a little curious.

"My house is located in the Porter Kingdom, which is on the edge of the Great Plains of Death. So we reached the campgrounds after walking for half a month!" Beirut said helplessly, as he rolled his eyes again.

"No wonder!" Leylin shook his head.

"Jayden, this is something that I saw first, what do you want?" A silver tray clattered on the floor, letting out a crisp noise.

Leylin turned around and saw Kaliweir growling, his hair slightly standing up like a furious lion.

On the other side, Jayden poked a golden barbecued chicken drumstick with his fork, "It belongs to whoever takes it first!"

Not only did the crowd not stop them, but they all appeared to be waiting to see a good show

On this tiresome journey, Kaliweir and Jayden felt that the other party was unpleasant to their eyes, especially when Jayden tried to take in two henchmen.

They had restrained themselves in the earlier conflicts due to fear, as the Magi were around. However, things seemed to be out of control now.

Leylin furrowed his brows.

"It's you who forced me to do this!" Kaliweir roared, and the muscles in his body tensed. It seemed like he had added a layer of muscle on his body.

As a noble, he had naturally trained with the techniques of a Knight. Also, he seemed to have already ignited his internal life energy, thus becoming a proper Knight.

[A.I Chip! Scan target!]

[Beep! Kaliweir, Strength: 2.5, Agility: 2.7, Vitality: 3.0, Status: Currently using a secret technique]

[Examination of the Secret Technique: After circulating, Strength

increases, Agility increases!]

“Today, I will let you know that you must lower your head in obedience before a prideful lion!” Kaliweir shouted, and moved his legs. An afterimage remained, as he dashed towards Jayden.

[Alert! Alert! Radiation detected! Status: Recommend distancing from source!] The A.I Chip’s voice sounded in Leylin’s ears.

“Radiation source? Could it be that a Magus has taken action?”

“Haha! I will let you know today, who exactly is the number one amongst the freshmen!” Jayden laughed loudly, and took out a green badge from within his chest pocket.

“Pilis-Duwasha! Creature of the green! Hear my calls of summoning, and come out to the mortal world!” Jayden chanted in a strange voice.

What he used was a very rare language, but surprisingly, Leylin had actually understood every word of it.

With the incantation, a layer of light emerged from the green badge and a few brownish vines appeared from the ground and elongated, like a confused snake that was dancing wildly.

Chi Chi !!

The vines danced as they protected Jayden from the front, and as one vine was sent forward, it tripped Kaliweir down to the ground.

The layers of vines continued to coil around him, and Kaliweir was soon wrapped in it completely, with only his face exposed.

“Magic Artifact!” The surrounding acolytes cried in surprise.

“To be able to use a Magic Artifact, one must at least be a Level 1 Acolyte! He.....He has already been promoted to a Level 1 Acolyte?”

The crowd clamoured, and they looked at Jayden with gazes of respect. This only caused Kaliweir’s face to redden even further.

“How is this? As long as you swear to obey me, I will release you!” Jayden walked to where Kaliweir was.

“Ne.....Never! The pride of Golden Lion Family will never be dishonoured by my hands!” Kaliweir veins popped, as if they were going to bleed anytime.

“If it’s like this, then I have no choice!” Jayden shrugged his shoulders and the vines continued to tighten, and few cracking noises even came from within. It seemed like a few of Kaliweir’s bones had been broken.

The surrounding acolytes could not watch on any longer and were about to persuade Jayden.

Bang !!! The Dirigible swayed, and the light dimmed.

A few of the acolytes fell onto the floor, “What happened? Did we meet with some intense turbulence?” Leylin’s eyes flashed.

“Hu!” “Hu!”

The windows cracked open, and violent gusts of wind came rushing in.

Accompanied by the sound of the wind, there were also countless blue electric currents scattering in all directions.

Looking at these, Leylin pupils shrank to the size of a needle, “Thunderstorm? Where are the Magi on the Dirigible?”

“You insignificant vermins, you actually dare to trespass the domain of the mighty Pendra!!”

A voice reverberated, accompanied by a violent thunderstorm.

Chapter 19: Arriving At The Academy

“It’s a matured Giant Storm Sprite!

“Damnit! How could we meet with these kind of things on this path, didn’t we clear it before?”

“Where are the Magi of the various academies? We need their help!!”

A few flustered voices sounded.

“Let us first activate the large-scale Defense Spell Formation. If not, those acolytes will surely die!”

After some incantations, all the walls on the Dirigible were enveloped by a layer of milky white light. All cracks in the Dirigible flashed with a green light as vines climbed up and firmly blocked any openings.

“Hu hu.....” Leylin’s face turned red as he panted heavily.

When the Giant Storm Sprite spoke earlier, the acolytes had all felt an ice-cold force pressing down on them.

Immense, boundless, and raw malice!!! Leylin found it difficult to breathe.

Fortunately, after the Defense Spell Formation was activated, Leylin felt much better as the pressure lifted.

Otherwise, most of the acolytes in the hall might just die from suffocation moments later.

“Human beings, you must pay the price for your folly!” the Giant Storm Sprite howled.

As the sound waves travelled through the Defense Spell Formation, the milky white light vibrated.

“Mighty being of nature! Please appease your fury! We have a letter here!” A familiar voice rang beside Leylin’s ears, it was the Dirigible captain.

“This is the letter of agreement that we had with His Majesty, the Storm

King Sprite, which grants us passage through this area!” Kirkwul said with a voice full of confidence.

“Letter of agreement?” The Giant Storm Sprite’s voice contained suspicion, which he followed up with a furious roar, “Pendra is free! The agreement does not bind me to it!!”

“Keep roaring! Rage on! Damikan Buthra!” With the incantation spoken, the thunderstorm outside became ten times more violent than before.

“Damn!!! It is actually a wanderer, I have hit the jackpot!!!” Kirkwul’s voice sounded once again, but it did not carry the usual confidence and was infused with exasperation instead.

“Everyone attack together!!!”

Rumble!!!

Many bright coloured lights flashed continuously outside the window, clashing with the lightning.

The Dirigible gradually started to sway.

Leylin’s face turned slightly pale. He could only pray for the Magi to use their might and chase that darn Giant Storm Sprite away, otherwise he would not even be able to escape since he was stuck high up in the sky.

“Bang!!!”

There was another rumble, and the Dirigible recovered its stability.

“Has it left?”

“It is only a Giant Storm Sprite that has just matured, it is only comparable to half of an elemental Magus at most. There are nine of us here, so it running away is natural!

The voices of the Magi discussions sounded from outside. It obviously did not take a lot of effort for them, which eased the minds of the acolytes.

As expected, when the acolytes heard those words, they all shouted and cheered loudly.

“Woo! To our great Magi!”

“Damn it! I thought I would fall and be smashed into minced meat!”

“Haha! Look at that coward; he actually peed in his pants!” The acolytes all mocked an unlucky acolyte, and vented the fear that they had held in their hearts.

Leylin’s eyes scanned the surroundings.

When the Giant Storm Sprite spoke earlier, Jayden had already released the vines binding Kaliweir, and right now it seemed like Kaliweir had escaped. However, although Jayden’s face was rather pale, he stood his ground and maintained the pose of a victor.

“The A.I Chip did not detect that Jayden was carrying a Magic Artifact earlier. It seems like it was only acquired recently, and the only means of that is through Dorotte!!!”

“It seems like after obtaining the Magic Artifact, Jayden has been leading Kaliweir into picking a fight with him impatiently. If not for this incident, it is very likely that he would have succeeded!” Leylin thought to himself.

Because of the interruption from the Giant Storm Sprite, the fight between Jayden and Kaliweir remained unsettled as it drew its curtains.

From then on, Kaliweir tried his best to avoid appearing in the same place as Jayden. It seemed like he was afraid of his opponent’s Magic Artifact.

This fight had greatly influenced Leylin’s thoughts.

“Kaliweir has already ignited his internal life energy, and got through the bottleneck and became a full fledged Knight. However, in front of an acolyte with a Magic Artifact, he is still as weak as a lamb! It seems like the strength of Magi greatly surpass that of Knights!

“Originally, I thought I must ignite my internal life energy. But after this, if I haven’t ignited it before reaching the school, then I’ll give up on it! I definitely have to pour all my attention and energy into my studies to become a Magus!” Leylin made up his mind.

The time slowly passed, and the Dirigible finally reached another

continent.

In addition to the incident with the Giant Storm Sprite, the Dirigible had several encounters with other flying creatures. This led Leylin to realise that not only was the Death Seas difficult to navigate through, it was the same in the skies.

Fortunately, Kirkwul's letter of agreement was still rather effective in front of the various large creatures and no conflicts were started.

During this period, the Dirigible alighted several times and sent several Professors and acolytes off. The Dirigible slowly became more vacant.

Another dozen days passed unknowingly.

Bang!! The Dirigible landed and the whole interior shuddered.

"We have arrived at the Abyssal Bone Moor! Attention to all acolytes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy! Please bring your belongings and leave the Dirigible in an orderly fashion!" A voice rang through the cabins.

"We've finally arrived?" Leylin packed his belongings and quickly left the tiny space he had been holed up in during the past month.

"Jayden, Kaliweir, please take attendance!" Dorotte held a black staff, with a large green jewel embedded in its tip.

"Alright!" Jayden and Kaliweir nodded their heads and started accounting for the attendance.

Leylin glanced at Kaliweir. Ever since the incident in the dining hall, this youth had turned much quieter and often holed himself in his own room. Looking at his face now, he seemed be gloomier than before.

On the contrary, Jayden was extremely lively, and according to some rumours, he had already been accepted by Dorotte as an apprentice.

Apprentices were different from other acolytes as their status were higher, and they could even freely obtain a lot of advanced knowledge from their professor.

A dozen or so people walked out of the Dirigible.

“So this is our academy? It seems to be a little desolate!”

Leylin looked at the surroundings, and it seemed rather desolate. There were a few small trails with obvious traces of others using it before.

There was a wooden sign in the middle of a crossroad, riddled with several holes.

There were directions written in black, showing the various locations.

“The land of shadows and death - Bone Abyssal Moor!” The words twisted, and Leylin felt his scalp gone numb.

“Hehe..... Follow me!” Dorotte stretched his body leisurely, and his white bones creaked and crunched, as if they were going to fall apart at any moment.

“Pay heed! Although our academy’s acolytes do a scheduled cleansing, there are still some living creatures, and polluted and evil beings roaming in this area. So if you were to stray off, I think we would be able to pay respects to your deceased body soon afterwards!”

Dorotte snickered, and the acolytes’ faces all changed. They followed behind Dorotte closely, for fear of losing him.

The group gradually traversed across the Abyssal Bone Moor.

“What is that?” Leylin walked in the middle of the group, and suddenly something black flashed in front of him. It seemed to be a blue creature with a horn.

“A.I Chip! Begin scan!”

“Task initialising, Begin Scan!” The A.I Chip chip’s robotic voice sounded.

[An unknown creature of high energy! Estimated Strength: 3-4, Agility: 4-5, Vitality: About 5, Assessment: Extremely dangerous!]

“Ss! Whatever it is, it’s much stronger than the direwolves and may have some strange tricks up its sleeves. A Knight would only die if they encounter one!”

Leylin hurriedly squeezed forward. In this land where danger lurked, it seemed like the black robed skeleton, Professor Dorotte, was his only insurance.

“It seems like our little acolytes have finally understood the dangers!”

The green flames in Dorotte’s sockets flickered as he said indifferently.

The group proceeded forward, and very soon the barren earth lessened and more forestry could be seen around them.

Very soon, Leylin entered a black coloured forest.

He did not know if it was an illusion, but Leylin felt as if the sun in the sky had dimmed after entering the forest, and there was a layer of white mist in the surroundings giving off a chilly feeling.

[Warning! Warning! A high energy being is approaching! Position: In the air!] The A.I Chip’s warning sounded.

Leylin hurriedly looked down and crouched.

“Kak!” A piercing sound rang.

A black raven with red eyes swooped down and passed by Leylin’s position, its sharp claws headed towards the face of a female acolyte.

Boom!!!

A ball of greenish liquid struck at the raven directly, and the raven cawed as it fell onto the floor. A white smoke arose, giving off a corroding effect.

The female acolyte remained rooted to the ground and suddenly cried loudly.

Only seconds later, the raven on the floor disappeared without a corpse and there was only a huge impression left in the corroded earth.

“It seems like these Red-Eyed Ravens increased in numbers yet again. I think I will need to distribute more missions after we return, and let the acolytes cleanse this area!”

“What are you all looking at? Let’s go!”

Dorotte's voice sounded at the front and the crying female acolyte rubbed her eyes and gritted her teeth as she walked forward.

Leylin was startled, and hurriedly followed.

After another hour of journeying, the group arrived in the centre of the Abyssal Bone Forest.

"This is....." Leylin saw a spacious area in front of him.

And what was projected before their eyes, was a large graveyard.

In the hearths of the Abyssal Bone Forest, a large graveyard sat there unknowingly.

This graveyard was extremely huge and was marbled in black and white, seeming luxurious.

Only, it seemed to have been forsaken for some time. Many of the graves had weeds growing on them, and some even had vines. Occasionally, the ravens caw on top of them, giving off a terrifying vibe.

"Welcome to your home of shadow and death - Abyssal Bone Forest!" Dorotte snickered, but no matter how Leylin saw it, Dorotte seemed to be taking joy in their unfortunate plight.

Chapter 20: The Selection Of Mentors

“The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy has a satirical sense of humour, huh; they actually have their academy under a graveyard!”

Leylin shook his head, but he felt rather comfortable, the pores on his body were all open and absorbed the air of the surroundings here.

“A.I Chip! What is the situation now?”

[Beep! Task Establishing! Acquiring sample of the environment, analysis in progress!]

[There is a significant increase in a type of energy particle here which faintly resonates with the Host’s consciousness. They are conjectured to be Shadow and Dark particles!] The A.I Chip’s voice travelled over.

“No wonder! There is an increase in the energy particles here, which obviously benefits Shadow and Dark Element Magi. It is like the novels from my previous world, where one must occupy an area that is filled with spirit energy when they practice the cultivation techniques of immortals!”

Leylin gained a slight understanding of the academy’s choices.

“Password!”

At this moment, Dorotte had already brought the group to the centermost area in the graveyard, where there was a huge grave. Black marble stones were piled up one by one, making it resemble a huge black castle.

Beside the marbled door, there were two stone statues.

On the left, there was a two-headed dog with spikes growing on its body.

On the right, there was an earthworm with a pair of wings and razor sharp fangs protruding out, exuding a cruel aura.

These two statues were lifelike. They had black jewels for eyes, and looked as if they were alive.

When Dorotte walked in front of the statues, the earthworm on the left side spoke in a parched voice. With each opening and closing of the

mouth, dust from the stone continuously fell down onto the floor.

“Enough! Jumal, don’t you recognise me?”

Dorotte had a look of annoyance on his face.

Right after Dorotte spoke; the earthworm and huge dog both guffawed. Their voices brought about a huge wind, which flipped the robes of the acolytes behind.

“Dorotte! Although we are pretty familiar with each other, rules are rules!”

Both of the statues seemed to have come alive. The huge dog licked its paws, and let out a female voice.

“Or, would you like to play with us?” The earthworm lifted its claw and made a human-like gesture, beckoning with the claw, “Then come! I feel itchy all over my body!”

“Alright! Alright! Let me think!” Dorotte rolled his eyes.

“Oh! Damn it! I should really take the head of the pig who set up this Defensive Spell Formation and shove it up their ass!”

Dorotte suddenly bellowed.

“Hurry and say it! What is the password?” The huge dog roared and there were sparks coming out from its mouth.

“The secret password is - I hate smelly bones!” Dorotte spoke softly.

Leylin’s mouth twisted, and only by using a strong willpower did he manage to suppress his laughter. Although Dorotte wore a skull, Leylin was extremely certain that he was currently sulking.

“Haha! The password is correct!” The earthworm and huge dog laughed loudly and let them pass.

“I bet the overseer keeping watch with the crystal ball is laughing to death right now!” The huge dog snickered, then returned to his original stone platform and changed into its former statue state.

“Puchi!” An acolyte finally found it hard to bear and let out a noise.

“Hng!” Green flames suddenly ignited within Dorotte’s sockets, “It seems like we must educate the new acolytes on how to respect their professors!”

Pa! Dorotte snapped his fingers.

“Ah!!! What is this, don’t come over here, don’t come over!!!” The acolyte who laughed out loud earlier retreated several steps and fell onto the floor, wailing loudly.

“Rousey! What is it!” An acolyte beside him walked forward.

“No.....Don’t come over!” Rousey screamed, and his face gradually twisted.

Seeing this scene, the nearby acolytes all felt a chill down their spines.

“Magi are equal among themselves, so they can afford to play jokes on each other. However, acolytes must always maintain their humility!”

Suddenly, Leylin understood the code of conduct in the Magi world. Only with equal strength, did one have the status to speak to another.

Jayden and Kaliweir also seemed to be deep in thought.

“Carry him up and let us go in!” Dorotte pointed at Rousey, who was still screaming.

Both of his servants walked over and carried Rousey, one on each side.

“Both of them are at least Grand Knights!” Seeing how the two servants subdued Rousey so easily, Leylin’s eyes flashed.

After opening the door to the grave, they all appeared in front of a stone staircase that spiraled downwards.

The flight of stairs was spiralled and descended all the way into the depths of the darkness, until they could not be seen any more.

Dorotte used his staff and knocked on the floor. Dong Dong!!

Blue flames started to light up one by one, illuminating the ground within.

“Apart from the colour, it’s similar to an ancient castle from the Medieval Times!” Leylin exclaimed, and tread down the stairs of the

Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

Leylin did not know how long exactly he walked for under the illumination of the blue flames, but it was definitely over 20 minutes.

“So huge! The area of this underground building is so much larger than the area of the graveyard on top, and it is not even by several times. It almost resembles an underground kingdom already.”

Leylin calculated in silence.

“Our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was constructed in the Gregorian Year 324, and it has been almost one thousand years since then..... As for our academy founder, it is Merlin Falek Driwilc.....”

Dorotte led at the forefront, and occasionally gave them a few sentences of explanation.

“The door which you all had entered from earlier is the main door! And besides that, there are still many exits inside the academy. As long as you have become a proper Magus, you can apply and chose an uninhabited, empty grave for your own personal passage!”

Dorotte explained.

But Leylin’s lip never stopped twitching, “The purpose for us to advance as a Magus is so we can obtain a grave? How delightful!”

However, ever since the unlucky guy was used as an example earlier, Leylin only dared to rant in his heart and didn’t say it aloud.

Our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is divided into several large areas: the dormitories, classrooms, laboratories, gardening areas, trading post, mission area and such. As for their exact locations, someone will bring you for an induction later. For now, all of you must follow me to register at the administration area, and then we’ll commence the selection of your professors!”

Dorotte came to the front of a slightly larger room, and pointed at the words on the steel door, “This is the administration area, however, I believe none of you will be willing to come here again in the future!”

Seeing the symbols on the door which seemed like both words and patterns at times, Leylin finally acknowledged that none of the characters were anything like what the brat had encountered in the past.

[TL Note: The brat refers to the previous host of Leylin's body.]

“Oh! I've forgotten that you guys don't know the ancient Byron language!” Dorotte tapped his head, “No worries! This is one of the basics of incantation, you guys will learn it in the future!”

“Dorotte, huh? Enter!” An aged voice sounded from within, and the steel doors moved automatically. A steel hand opened the bolts on the door, and even beckoned them in.

Leylin followed Dorotte inside, and realised that this room was extremely large. An old man with white beard and red eyebrows was seated at the wide, black office desk. He was scribbling something with a feather pen, and beside him was a stack of parchment.

Behind him, there were countless bookshelves of over ten metres tall, and parchment and even crystal balls were disorderly arranged on them. It looked just like a library.

“You're late!” The old man put down the quill pen in his hand, and his wrinkled face smiled gently.

“We met with some trouble along the way, a wandering Giant Storm Sprite, so the Dirigible was a little damaged, and hence the delay in time!” Dorotte explained.

The old man said, “That's really unfortunate!”

And then he looked at the acolytes at the back and his bright eyes shone brilliantly. He scanned through the acolytes, before finally landing on Jayden.

“It seems like you are well rewarded this trip!”

“Of course!” Dorotte pointed, “Jayden, come over here!”

Pulling Jayden to his side, “I have made a contract with him already! He is now my personal apprentice! Hurry! Settle the procedures for him!”

Dorotte took a stack of forms from a heavy black pouch and handed it over to the old man.

“Mn! Fifth grade acolyte, not too bad!” The old man took out an object resembling a pair of glasses with gold threads around its rim, and hung it on his nose.

“Definitely! Melda, that scum, he actually pushed such a troublesome thing to me, haha! Now I want to see him angry!” Dorotte gloated loudly.

“So then! Jayden! Are you willing to become the personal apprentice of Dorotte?” The old man asked.

“I accept!” Jayden looked at Dorotte and agreed in a low voice.

“Good!” The old man took a sheet of parchment and wrote something on it, then handed Jayden a black sack too, “This is yours, hold it well!”

“Are the procedures done? I have taught him those meditation techniques, and right now I have to rush back to my experiments! It was difficult enough to find some inspiration along the way, but I did not have any ingredients on hand, do you know how much I was suffering?”

Dorotte let out a shrill voice and pulled Jayden along, leaving the room quickly.

“Alright! Mister Dorotte’s task is completed. What’s next are the things that you guys should be mindful of!” The old man knocked on the desk and drew the attention of the acolytes back to him, and then said in a satisfied manner.

“Since all of you have already handed in the fees and achieved the criteria for the contract, you are all acolytes of our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy now. Right now, all of you will begin with the selection of your professors!”

“There are two methods to choose a professor. The first is to chose by placing your name inside the crystal ball and my treasure will pick a professor for you! This method is absolutely free of charge.”

“Excuse me? What is your treasure?” An acolyte asked cowardly.

“Oh?” The old man laughed, and suddenly a black python appeared on the table, “This is my magical pet! Spotty! It does not recognise any of you, so I think it’s the fairest for it to choose! Any other questions?”

“No.....No more!” Seeing the large python, the acolyte quickly retreated backwards.

“There is also another method, which is for the acolytes to choose their own professors. Here with me is a list containing short introductions of various professors and their requirements, all for your choosing. Of course, if you choose this method, you will need a magic crystal as payment!”

“It doesn’t matter which method you chose, but once you have decided on your professor, you can never change again!”

The old man said, “Next up, I will call your names, and you will come forward and tell me your choice!”

Chapter 21: Kroft

After the old man finished speaking, the acolytes were a little flustered.

“What now? How should we choose?” Beirut asked worriedly.

“Paying is definitely better than not paying! This is common sense!”

“You should still have excess Magic Crystals, don’t you?” Leylin asked puzzledly.

“But..... I only have 1 Magic Crystal left; my family sacrificed one thousand troops to get merely 2 Magic Crystals!”

Beirut was a little reluctant. Leylin was startled too, as he could not help but feel his pockets.

“The value of Magic Crystals is higher than I expected. When I extorted some from Ourin earlier, I really lucked out!”

“That’s not right, the Chernobyl Islands is also known to Magi as the Barren Islands. Magic Crystals are already scarce, so the value of Magic Crystals being much higher here may be due to that!”

“A matter like this can only be decided by yourself!” Leylin said to Beirut.

“Alright! First up, Raynor!” The old man said.

“Which are you choosing?”

“I.....I don’t have any Magic Crystals left, can I first buy on credit? I am a fourth grade acolyte!” Raynor blushed.

“Not a bad aptitude! A pity however, rules are rules!” The old man shook his head.

As he pointed at a crystal ball on the table, Raynor’s name appeared within, along with many other unfamiliar names, flickering as they appeared.

When the black python Spotty spat out a letter and dabbed on the crystal ball, the words finally stopped flickering, “Raynor! Your mentor is Gafrin!”

“Take this! A set of acolyte robes and an identity badge! A crystal ball which contains an elementary meditation technique! And your room number and keys are there too!”

The old man threw the black sack containing the items to Raynor, and then snapped his fingers. Bang!!! A black ball suddenly appeared in the room and floated in midair.

“Follow this shadow slave, it will bring you to where your mentor is!”

The old man made a gesture to send him off, and Raynor helplessly followed the black ball out.

“Next! Rousey!”

The one, who laughed at Dorotte earlier, Rousey, was called. Although his complexion had recovered a little, there was still cold sweat on his face.

“Oh! What do I see? A nightmare hex! What a pitiful fellow! You’re going to suffer for the next month!”

“Could.....Could you remove this hex?” Rousey’s voice quivered.

“Definitely! One hundred Magic Crystals! No credit allowed!” The old man agreed crisply!

Rousey shook his head and took a Magic Crystal from his robes, “I want to choose my own mentor!”

“En!” The old man accepted the Magic Crystal, and handed a compendium, which looked like a dictionary, to Rousey, “The mentors who are willing to accept apprentices are all there, take your time and pick!”

“Bang!” An hourglass appeared on the table, the sand falling slowly.

“I forgot to mention earlier, a Magic Crystal only allows for one turn of the hourglass. If you exceed it, you have to pay another Magic Crystal!” The old man grinned.

Rousey swallowed his saliva, and looking at the sand grains falling non-stop, he flipped through the pages in a hurry.

“This hourglass seems as though it lasts only 5 minutes worth of time! It is not even enough to skim through!” Leylin’s pupils shrank.

“Time’s up!” In accordance with the voice, the compendium closed automatically and made a loud snapping sound.

“How is it? Have you chosen? Or do you wish to have another look?” The old man asked.

“I have decided! I choose Mentor Vivian!” Rousey sucked in a deep breath.

“Take your belongings and follow the slave!” The old man threw a black sack, identical to the one from before, to Rousey and summoned another shadow slave.

Rousey bowed humbly, and followed the floating slave out the large doors.

“Next up, Kaliweir!”

The old man continued calling, and Leylin scrutinised the acolytes who went up. Kaliweir seemed well off, as he paid 3 Magic Crystals and looked through the compendium before making a choice.

“As for Beirut, he did not pay the 1 Magic Crystal in the end. His mentor was chosen randomly, and he did not know if the results were good or bad.

“Next! Leylin!” The old man called Leylin’s name.

Leylin inhaled deeply, and walked to the front.

“I’ll choose on my own!” Leylin handed a Magic Crystal to the old man.

“You know the rules!” The old man snapped, the hourglass flipped over, and time started elapsing.

The compendium was rather heavy, and the material seemed to be of high quality.

Leylin hurriedly flipped through the pages, and continuously skimmed through the information on the parchment.

“It is the language of the Chernobyl Islands. It seems like it has been

specially prepared for us acolytes of this area.”

“A.I Chip! Record and extract the information!”

“Mentor Lester, Department of Souls, specialises in transformation, neurology, and composition of radiation.”

Able to provide information on 3 topics free of charge.

Requirements: The acolyte must assist in an experiment every month, and cannot be declined for any reason!!!”

“Mentor Dorotte, Department of Shadow, specialises in anatomy, conversion of energy, and necromancy.”

Requirements: Acolytes must pay 1 Magic Crystal per month, and at the same time, cooperate with experiments!”

“Mentor Kroft, Department of Potioneering, specialises in medicine, herbalism, and neutralisation of energy.”

Able to provide information on 1 topic free of charge.

Requirements: Acolytes must always help with the cleaning of the experimental lab, preparation and handling of various herbs, and at the same time, assist the Magus in carrying out herbal concoctions (on the basis that they cause no harm to the acolytes!)”

“Mentor Estelle, Department of Curses, specialises in curses, dissecting of human anatomy, and soul studies.”

Able to provide information on 5 topics free of charge. The category is chosen by the acolytes, and can guide acolytes in their studies at any given time!

Requirements: Cooperate with one experiment! Only one!!!”

The pages flipped, and let out a rustling noise. By the time the last grain of sand fell, Leylin had managed to flip to the last page.

“Your memory isn’t bad, which is useful for your studies in the future! How is it? Who will you choose?” The old man smiled and asked.

Leylin closed his eyes, “A.I Chip! How is the collation of data?”

[Beep! Data is in order, information on 53 mentors collated. In process of discarding the enticing conditions!]

Leylin's complexion turned bitter, "The information in the brackets for Mentor Kroft earlier made me rather mindful. It seems like the experiments of Magi are dangerous, and can actually jeopardize the safety of the acolytes!"

"Kroft is only doing experiments on herbal concoctions, but what of the others, like the shadow and necromancy experiments?"

"No wonder the requirements given are so easy to meet, not needing to give payment for information. It was, in fact, so they could lure students who would cooperate for experimental testing! Although they might not have any adverse effects, it's all over once they do!"

"A.I Chip! Carry out the filtering process, with the conditions: To match with my current circumstances."

[Beep!!!] The blue light flashed, and the light blue screen in front of Leylin flickered. More than half of the mentors' information was omitted, leaving only a miserable few choices, including Dorotte's.

"Mentor Dorotte, Department of Shadow, specialises in anatomy, conversion of energy, and necromancy."

Requirements: Acolytes must give one 1 Magic Crystal each month, and at the same time, cooperate with experiments!"

"Mentor Kroft, Department of Potioneering, specialises in medicine, herbalism, and neutralisation of energy."

Able to provide information on 1 topic free of charge.

Requirements: Acolytes must always help with the cleaning of the experimental lab, preparation and handling of various herbs, and at the same time, assist the Magus in carrying out herbal concoctions (on the basis that they cause no harm to the acolytes!!)"

"It seems like Dorotte's temper isn't too bad amongst the mentors. If not, he wouldn't have gone to fetch the new batch of acolytes."

Leylin thought inwardly, “A pity that my Magic Crystals are not enough, and he has Jayden already. I’m afraid there will not be much attention given to me!”

“Also the Shadow Department mentors all require acolytes to cooperate with their experiments and cannot ensure the safety of acolytes. This is such a fraud!”

Leylin helplessly omitted the mentors of the Shadow Department.

“What’s left is only this Alchemy mentor! With the extreme and unique advantages that I have with my A.I Chip, I can definitely make use of alchemy to earn money and buy knowledge related to the Dark element!”

To others, Leylin had merely closed his eyes and made his choice right after opening them.

“I choose Mentor Kroft!”

“Alchemy?” The old man was a little surprised, “You wish to become an alchemist? The effort and resources invested are extremely horrifying! Do you want to change? I think Dorotte suits you well!”

“Thank you sir!” Leylin earnestly bowed, “I have a hobby for alchemy, and have also acquired some knowledge in this field beforehand.”

“The mortal world’s perception of alchemy is totally different from that of the world of Magi!” The old man shook his head. Then, seeing Leylin’s resolute gaze, he couldn’t help but exclaim,

“Since you have already decided, so be it!” After speaking, the old man took a quill pen and scribbled on the parchment paper.

“Here are your belongings, follow the shadow slave to where Kroft is!”

The old man handed a sack over to Leylin.

Leylin bowed deeply and even nodded to the remaining acolytes, before leaving through the large door.

The black coloured ball floated in front, and occasionally spun in a circle. Its speed was not too fast, and with Leylin’s body of a peak Preparatory Knight, he easily followed along.

From time to time, there were acolytes passing, but they did not look at Leylin in astonishment.

Leylin followed the shadow slave and passed through several corridors, two large halls, and a garden. It then stopped in front of an area designed for experiment labs.

The shadow slave turned translucent, and immediately passed through the door, leaving Leylin outside.

Leylin was speechless, yet he did not dare knock on the door. Therefore he just waited outside patiently.

After a moment, there came a middle aged man's voice.

"Leylin, huh? Enter!"

"Yes!" Leylin pushed opened the doors of the experimental lab.

A sweet and spicy aroma filled the laboratory room, mingling with the odour of poisonous fumes and liquids, which made Leylin furrow his brows.

A huge table took up the space of almost half the lab, and placed on it were various test tubes, flasks and beakers, as well as some other apparatus that Leylin could not identify. This made Leylin recall his previous life.

In front of the laboratory table, there stood a white haired, middle aged man who wore white robes. His collar was embroidered with golden patterns, and his eyes emitted a golden light, like two golden gems.

"I'm Kroft, and I've heard the details from the shadow slave. So then, Leylin, are you willing to become my apprentice?" The middle aged man put down the test tube in his hands, and said solemnly.

Chapter 22: Meditation Technique

“I am willing!” Leylin hurriedly answered.

“That’s good! Since these are the arrangements made by the school, I’ll accept you as my disciple!” The middle aged man stroked his beard.

“Although the environment here is quite ordinary, it’s enough to let you undergo the initiation!” Kroft swept his eyes over the examination room. “At least it’s very quiet here and we won’t be disturbed!”

“What initiation?” Leylin had some doubts.

“The initiation of a Magus!” Kroft replied.

“Now tell me, Leylin, what is a Magus to you?”

“A mysterious person with the ability to call forth thunder and storms, manipulate flames and other forces of nature!” Leylin said the definition he knew of in Chernobyl Islands.

“En! However, it’s a little off!” Kroft commented.

“A Magus is actually the title we give to people with power in ancient times. These Magi all learn the principles and how to control and manipulate the energy within. They are never ending in their pursuit of knowledge and truth!”

Kroft explained the definition of Magi to Leylin.

“So it is to say, the title of Magus is actually not limited to only humans!” Leylin had a better understanding now.

“Indeed! Other kinds of demi-humans, and even other intelligent beings, have Magi existing among their kind, for example, a Magus of the sea tribes, or even a Dragon Magus!”

Kroft said, “Alright! Now let us begin the rites! Don’t be afraid, it’s very simple!”

Clap! The floor around Kroft softened, and transformed into a spell formation of sorts, and a strange energy came spreading from within.

The surroundings turned dark, with only the flame lit in the centre of the formation.

“Right now, give your hand to me!” Leylin stretched his hand out and a larger palm firmly clasped it.

“Abiding by the rites of ancient times, I will now guide you, Leylin Farlier, onto the path of a Magus!”

“Recite after me!”

“I swear! I will forever be in pursuit of the truth!” Kroft used an unfamiliar language, but Leylin understood it completely, and his mouth could not help but produce the same sounds.

“I swear! I will forever be in pursuit of the truth!” As it was a voice of a thirteen or fourteen year old youth, there was still a little immaturity in the voice.

“Without the permission of my mentor, I swear that I will not reveal any of the information my mentor passes on to me.....”

Kroft continued to recite and Leylin followed suit, the two voices very soon eerily turned into one.

In the hearts of the formation, the flame suddenly grew brighter and blazed strongly.....

“Congratulations on formally becoming an acolyte!”

After the rites, Kroft congratulated Leylin.

Leylin looked down at both of his hands. After the mysterious rites, it seemed like he saw the world in a different light, yet at the same time, he couldn't pinpoint the difference.

[An anomaly has been discovered in the brainwaves of the Host!!!] The A.I Chip's voice sounded.

“It seems like there is a change in Spiritual Force, but I don't have any further information regarding this field, so I can only supplement it in the future!” Leylin said helplessly.

“The meditation technique in the crystal ball has already been given to you, right? Take a look at it when you go back, you can already absorb the information in it now!”

“Tomorrow, come here at six in the morning!”

“You can leave now, but remember! Don’t wander around!” Kroft warned.

“I’ll do as you bid! Mentor!” Leylin bowed, and then walked out of the experimental lab.

“Luckily I passed them earlier; otherwise I wouldn’t even know where the dormitories are located!” When he was following the shadow slave earlier, Leylin had already let the A.I Chip start mapping the area. Now, there was a small part that was completed, and he knew the places that he had walked past before.

The areas with Magi are rather dangerous, and Leylin did not wish to suffer from any collateral damage from them.

After reaching the dorms, Leylin took the key out from the sack issued by the old man.

It was a heavy, black copper key, and it was labelled ‘783’. Right now, it was rather cold and vacant in the dorms. Leylin walked through the empty corridors, and his hair stood on end as he listened to the echo of his footsteps.

Following the room numbers, he found his room, “It’s here!”

Leylin placed the key into the keyhole, and the heavy metal produced a click.

As the large door opened, the dark room automatically produced a flame, “They actually use the principles of Magi to invent a similar sound activation system?”

Leylin placed his belongings down and inspected the place in which he was going to live for some years.

The dormitory was a little small and was divided into three partitions, a

bedroom, living room and washroom. They were actually self-contained living quarters, and there was even a new blanket placed on the bed, it looked prim and proper.

“The environment isn’t bad!” Leylin sat on the bed, and took out the things that were given by the academy.

“A set of acolyte robes. The A.I Chip has detected that there are several spells casted on it, and the defense is even comparable to some of the leather armour around, great stuff!” Leylin efficiently changed into the robes, and pinned the acolyte badge to his chest.

This look was exactly the same as the grey robed acolytes he had seen earlier today.

What Leylin did next was to pack his things, and do a cleaning of the room.

When he went out, the doors of the dorm beside him opened, and a brown haired acolyte walked out, “Hello! Are you a new acolyte? I am Bill!”

“Hello! I am Leylin, and I have just arrived today!” Leylin answered, and he just happened to have some questions, “Excuse me, how do I get to the dining hall?”

Hearing Leylin’s voice, Bill’s expression appeared as if he had expected it, “Right now it’s pretty late, and I’m about to go there too. Let’s go together?”

“I couldn’t ask for more!” Leylin smiled gently, and closed his door.

“The dining hall is on level 3, underground, and everything there is free. Of course, you can fork out money and let them make a dish that you want to eat!”

Bill led the way as he explained.

“I am from Poolfield Kingdom, and you?”

“Chernobyl Islands!”

“Heavens! So far! You have definitely suffered along the way, huh?” Bill was obviously a chatterbox, and Leylin managed to probe some

information out from him.

Bill was the same as him, a new acolyte, and only arrived five days earlier than Leylin did. As for the whole of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the professors numbered close to a hundred, while the acolytes numbered over a thousand.

“Oh right! Who is your mentor?” Bill asked.

“Kroft, an alchemy professor!” Leylin replied.

“Alchemy? You’re good!” Bill was seemingly startled.

“Is it difficult to learn alchemy?” Leylin was a little worried now.

“Not only is it difficult, the study of alchemy requires a huge amount of resources and ingredients. People who don’t come from a good family background will rarely choose this! However, alchemists tend to make a lot of money after they have been certified!” Bill gave Leylin a regretful look.

“You must have been randomly assigned a mentor during the selection, and then duped by that python Spotty!”

“Oh really?” Leylin rubbed his nose.

“Alright! We’re here at the dining hall now, take whatever you want to eat!”

The dining hall was extremely extravagant, and the food was more delicious than what he had on the Dirigible. Everyone who sat here was also an acolyte, and there were no signs of a Magus.

After dinner, Leylin bid farewell to Bill and then returned to his room. He sat on his bed, with the crystal ball clasped in his hands.

“I can finally start practicing as a Magus!”

Leylin stroked the crystal ball, his eyes gradually turned hazy, and his nostrils flared.

[A data interface has been discovered, start transmitting or not?] The A.I Chip’s voice sounded.

“Begin!” At Leylin’s command, an acute pain entered his brain, as if someone filled it with lead.

“This is..... “ Leylin grabbed his head, and discovered that many images and words appeared in his brain along with the pain, and the first line was: “Elementary Meditation Technique!”

This information appeared out of nowhere, and was firmly imprinted in Leylin’s mind.

After some time, Leylin finally recovered from the pain, but he was still feeling groggy.

“A.I Chip, defragment the data for the elementary meditation technique!”

[Beep! Task established, beginning defragmentation!]

A blue interface started to flicker in front of Leylin’s eyes.

[Beep! The data has been defragmented. 21.3% of miscellaneous information has been removed, begin to transmit?”

“Transmit!” Leylin ordered.

With the continuous transmission from the A.I Chip, Leylin began to gain an understanding of the elementary meditation technique for acolytes.

Elementary meditation techniques are, as their name implies, special meditation techniques given to acolytes, and are the most basic of techniques. After many years of modification, they have already reached a near perfect stage, and the content of the elementary meditation techniques from the various academies did not differ by much.

To be specific, they are similar to the visualisation techniques from his previous world. An acolyte draws mind runes inside their mind to increase their Spiritual Force, and as they draw more mind runes, their Spiritual Force grows stronger.

Every Magi liked to record all the precise details and processes down.

In regards to acolytes, they have divided the practice into three levels:

Level 1 Acolyte, Level 2 Acolyte, and Level 3 Acolyte.

As for the division between levels, it is seen through the progression of the elementary meditation technique.

When one has the ability to meditate with 8 runes, they have passed the criteria for a Level 1 Acolyte. Being able to meditate with 24 runes is the sign of a Level 2 Acolyte. As for Level 3 Acolytes, there seems to be other conditions needed.

As for the meditation progress, it is closely related to a Magus' aptitude.

"In regards to meditation practice, the superiority of a fifth grade acolyte is extremely obvious; they can become a Level 1 Acolyte in only five to six days. No wonder Jayden, who was a regular human before boarding the Dirigible, was able to use a Magic Artifact in just half a month's time."

As for a fourth grade acolyte, the time needed to become a Level 1 Acolyte is approximately fifteen to twenty days. Third grade acolytes will need a month's time; second grade acolytes will need half a year, and first grade acolytes will need several years!"

"This difficulty in progressing will only increase when ascending to Level 2 Acolyte and Level 3 Acolyte, hence is it understandable for professors to favour acolytes with high aptitudes. After all, maybe one can receive the remuneration of a proper Magus in a dozen years, with just a little more effort put in now!"

[An independent file has been created for the meditation technique data, analyse or not?] The A.I Chip prompted with a window.

"Begin analysing!"

[In the process of analysing! Progress: 0.11%] The A.I Chip showed the current state.

"This crystal ball seems to input the information directly into the acolytes' brains, but the method is a little too crude and it does not care if you remember it completely or not. But the A.I Chip is able to defragment and store it directly in the memory bank, and is even able to aid by analysing the process!"

Leylin indifferently compared the differences between the two.

Chapter 23: Within The Academy

Compounds

“Tick Tock! Tick Tock!”

The hands of the bronze clock in the room swiveled around once more, as another hour passed.

[The first mind rune has been analysed, start transmitting or not?] The A.I Chip prompted.

“Has it finally been analysed? Begin transmission!”

In this period of time, Leylin had also been studying the blueprints of the meditation technique, but it was to no avail.

The mind rune appeared as a 3D image and the patterns inside were extremely complicated, with no room for errors.

To display this image in book form, not only would the author need to have outstanding training in the fine arts, but the reader’s comprehension skills would also be put to the test.

Leylin estimated that regular acolytes would need to spend a good number of days to even begin to understand a single mind rune, before starting to construct them in their brains. However, with the A.I Chip, it was done in a matter of hours.

“This pace may very well be comparable to a fourth or fifth grade acolyte!” Leylin estimated.

After the A.I Chip’s transmission, Leylin had already completely comprehended the structure of the first mind rune. It was in the shape of an ‘A’, without the horizontal line in the middle, and was filled with patterns and helixes, making one dizzy the more they looked at it.

“To begin the meditation, I must first have peace of mind and imagine a serene lake.....”

Leylin slowly closed his eyes.

In the dimly lit room, the youth sat cross-legged and closed his eyes, as if he was in a slumber.

After an unknown period of time, there were a few spots of lights flickering in the youth's surroundings. They entered the body of the youth, and very soon they disappeared.

Leylin's eyelids fluttered, and he opened his eyes.

"So tiring! It seems like the meditation technique and a Knight's breathing technique is the same, there is a time limit! A.I Chip! Check my body's status!"

[Beep! Scanning the Host's body!]

[The Host's brain cells have been stimulated, and all of the cells in the body have increased in activity as a whole!]

[Beep! The Host's Vitality has increased by 0.05!]

[Oh..... Meditation techniques, there's no doubt that they are cultivation techniques for Magi. I can feel that the key purpose of this meditation technique is to increase the Spiritual Force, and the increase in Vitality is only an added benefit.]

"The Spiritual Force affects my stats! After practicing the meditation technique, my Vitality has actually started to exceed my previous limit!" Leylin's expression was complex, and there was an indescribable joy in his heart.

"According to the introduction in the data, sleeping right after meditation will provide the most optimal effects!"

Leylin stripped his outer robes, laid on the bed, and then entered into a deep sleep.

[Beep Beep! The alarm is ringing!] The A.I Chip's voice rang, and brought Leylin out from his sleep.

"It is already the time that I set my alarm for, time really passes quickly!" Leylin stretched lazily, and saw that the clock showed the time as 5:30.

"I'd better hurry up and tidy up! I still need to see Mentor Kroft!" Leylin

washed up quickly, went to the dining hall and gobbled down a bread for his breakfast, and then rushed to the experiment lab from yesterday.

“Good morning Sir!” Leylin greeted.

He noticed a female acolyte beside the white haired Kroft. She had fine curves and looked beautiful, and seemed to be another apprentice of the professor.

“Hm? You attempted the meditation technique?” Kroft furrowed his brows, “How did it feel?”

“My head ached, and I felt a little dizzy!”

“This is a common aftereffect of the transmission from the memory crystal ball; you just need to get more rest during this period!” Kroft said.

“Come, let me introduce you! This is Bicky, my other apprentice. This is Leylin, the new acolyte from yesterday!”

“Hi!” Bicky bowed, giving a virtuous greeting.

“Hello!” Leylin placed his right arm on his chest, and displayed the elegance of a noble.

“Bicky is your senior, besides her, you also have another senior called Merlin. His Potioneering skills are excellent!” Kroft said to Leylin.

“Merlin has been called a once-in-a-century genius of Potioneering, and is regarded as the most likely successor of our mentor!” Bicky added.

“Haha! Indeed! Merlin has shown outstanding talent in Potioneering! If there is anything you don’t understand, you may seek his help!” Once he mentioned Merlin, Kroft’s face revealed a smile, and he seemed extremely satisfied with that student of his.

“So Leylin, are you familiar with my rules?”

“I have seen them when going through the professor requirements during the selection of mentors!” Leylin nodded.

“Okay! From now on, you have to come here every day and help with the cleaning up, but you may go listen to the free lessons during breaks! As for

the benefit of being under me, which is receiving information on a topic, you can choose and ask me after learning the basics!”

Kroft said.

“Thank you Sir!” Leylin hurriedly bowed. Right now, he had no inkling whatsoever about the Magus world, so even if Kroft wanted him to choose, he would not know which was best. It was only right to choose at a later time, when he could reap the most benefits.

“Right now, I will give both of you half a day’s break. Let Bicky accompany and show you around the academy. Bicky, tell him about the few restrictions!”

“Yes!” Leylin and Bicky nodded their heads and left the laboratory.

“This is the residence of the professors, acolytes usually aren’t allowed to enter.....This is the Trading Post, where acolytes can make transactions with others. And here, we have the Mission Area. The different missions and levels will be written on this stone wall. Acolytes can complete these missions and obtain contribution points and Magic Crystals!”

Bicky’s voice was extremely pleasing to the ears, and she was beautiful too. Her personality was also lively. Leylin’s mood improved a lot by spending time with her.

The two of them strolled through the academy. It was mostly Bicky leading Leylin around, as she spoke of a few places and restrictions along the way.

Unknowingly, the two of them walked into a garden.

“Fayle, well done!” “Good, once more!”

The sound of voices caught Leylin’s attention. In the middle of the garden, a group of acolytes were standing around a large, sturdily-built youth and chatting continuously.

In the centre of the crowd was a youth with a bright silver hair, with dark green eyes, and he seemed to have some sort of strange charisma.

“That is senior Fayle. He’s a genius; he became a Level 2 Acolyte just half

a year after entering the academy!” Bicky’s eyes were widened, and her face shone radiantly as she muttered.

“This expression? It seems like Bicky has a good impression of this Fayle!” Leylin rubbed his nose.

“Bicky! Bicky!”

“Ah.....What is it?” Only after Leylin called out to her several times did Bicky avert her gaze. At this moment, her face was a little flushed.

“Oh! I wanted to ask, why are there so many plants here underground!”

Leylin sniffed a red flower; the flower had a strong fragrance.

“There are huge patches of sunlight moss on the roof of the gardens, and these mosses can emit a light similar to sunrays, hence plants can also grow underground in here.”

Bicky explained.

“Oh!” Leylin nodded his head and wondered if he should come here more often in the future to bask in the sunlight, since being exposed to more sunlight was not bad for a person after all.

Seeing Bicky’s reluctance to leave, Leylin purposely pretended to have a strong interest in the garden, until Fayle and the others left.

Only, Bicky would only glance at Fayle secretly, although she did not muster any courage to walk up to greet him even after such a long while. This made Leylin roll his eyes, as Bicky’s attitude towards romance can be considered rare in this academy.

“The Academic Area will often post the following day’s class schedule, and there are many free and public lessons to choose from. As a newbie, you cannot afford to miss these!”

After leaving the garden, Bicky brought Leylin to the Academic Area, and pointed to a large wooden board. In front of it were many other acolytes who were taking down notes.

“Free public lessons? That means there are lessons which one must pay for?” Leylin asked.

“That’s right! There are lessons which have fees, and many advanced topics charge 1 Magic Crystal for 10 lessons. Although they are much better than public lessons, they are still somewhat inferior to the knowledge given by our own mentors!”

Bicky smiled a little bitterly, “I’m afraid the only advantage is them being less expensive!”

Leylin nodded. On one side, there was a professor teaching dozens of students, while the other was an individual lesson, the advantages between the two are definitely different.

However, he had the A.I Chip, so his learning capability was outstanding. He was confident that he would do well even in a large class.

“With this method, I can definitely save some Magic Crystals!” Leylin stroked his chin.

He only had two Magic Crystals left. Earlier, when he was in the Mission Area, he saw that the missions that awarded Magic Crystals generally had more troublesome tasks, and required one to be a Level 1 Acolyte at least. Right now, Leylin did not meet the requirements.

“As for the cleaning tasks, they are all done by those spell slaves, and the rest are all snatched by others. There is simply no place for me!”

Leylin was a little frustrated. Magic Crystals were the currency among Magi, and were also the most common way to obtain greater knowledge in the academy. Without Magic Crystals, his studies would be hindered.

“Hm..... I had better attend those public classes first and advance to a Level 1 Acolyte. After that, I’ll consider taking up missions to earn some Magic Crystals!”

Leylin sighed.

“A.I Chip, how is the mapping of the academy?”

[Beep! 66.7% has been mapped]

The A.I Chip replied. In front of Leylin was a blue image, each layer of the buildings was displayed and divided into multiple parts, and it looked

like a beehive.

Some areas even had names attached, with Bicky's explanation for them on the side.

The areas that could be entered freely were marked in green, while the dangerous areas were in yellow. As for the areas that even Bicky did not dare enter, the A.I Chip indicated them in red, representing extreme danger.

For those red coloured danger zones, Leylin decided to walk around them. He even decided not to ask about them before becoming a Level 3 Acolyte.

"The mapping has been recorded!" Leylin nodded his head and said farewell to Bicky, "Bicky, thank you for accompanying me for a day, I remember most of the important areas of the academy now!"

"That's great!" Bicky played with the little white flower in her hands, "If there are any things that you don't understand, you can ask me!"

"Of course!" Leylin gave a small smile.

After bidding farewell to Bicky, Leylin ate his dinner and went back into his room. He began to practice the meditation technique.

A Magus's meditation is a continuous journey, only with daily devotion and perseverance, can one achieve enough Spiritual Force to become a being that can control mysterious powers.

"The A.I Chip is only useful for analysing the meditation technique. As for the creation of the mind runes, it was completely dependent on my own Spiritual Force, and it also relied a little on my comprehension and aptitude. In these areas, the A.I Chip was not much help!"

After meditating, Leylin felt his Spiritual Force increase by another tiny sliver, and then he entered into a deep slumber.

Chapter 24: Level 1 Acolyte

“A Level 1 Acolyte is actually someone with a stronger Spiritual Force than an average person’s. At the same time, he is able to move energy particles and store them inside their body, and is a newbie at conceptualising the creation of magic power. Only a Level 2 Acolyte will be able to access a magic spell’s formula and cast the spell in its complete form.

But once their body creates magic power, their stats can be strengthened through constant radiation as their body resists the poisoning from the external radiation.

Leylin made his judgment on the levels separating the acolytes based on the data on the meditation technique.

“A.I Chip! Retrieve all the data I have gathered today, and begin analysing!”

This is what Leylin had been doing all this time. He would do his best to collect data from other people without drawing their attention, and store the data in folders.

He created a folder with the data regarding Spiritual Force and how to transform them, a lesson which Leylin learnt yesterday. The information required was too much, and the process may be measured in years.

[Beep! Analysis completed. Result: The entire surroundings of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is contaminated with traces of radiation. The biggest sources of contamination are Magi, and a few experimental setups and materials. The Host is suggested to stay away from these sources, or to increase the resistance of the body!]

“As I expected! There are no regular human beings in the whole of this academy because of the environmental effects that the Magi and acolytes bring about. As for these effects, only a Magus can resist against it. A regular human would most likely have a lifespan of a few years in this environment!”

Leylin's face darkened, and conjured up the images of a few people, including Bicky and Kroft.

"According to the readings of the radiation emitted by them, a Magus is actually a moving source of radiation. Each one of them is like a miniscule nuclear reactor, or, could they have made use of the radiation to advance??"

Leylin furrowed his brows.

"No matter what, I must hurry up and become a Level 1 Acolyte. The longer I take, the greater the damage my body will receive.

Leylin was resolved.

In the next two weeks, Leylin would report to where Kroft was every day, assist in the cleaning of the experiment lab, and sort out a few insignificant experiment resources.

In this period, he had seen Kroft's genius apprentice Merlin, who was also his senior. Merlin was extremely tall, and had a very taciturn personality. He constantly poured over his experiments. Besides Kroft, his interactions with Bicky and Leylin were minimal. This could be one factor attributing to his success in Potioneering.

In the remaining time, he spent them in the free public lessons.

The free lessons in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy were not many, and they only consisted of the history of Magi, the basics of the ancient Byron language, the principles of Magi spells, basic Potioneering, anatomy, and basic magic spell theory.

The professors of the public lessons always had dark expressions, and they hurriedly left right after the period ended. Not only did they not answer the acolytes' questions, it seemed like everyone owed them Magic Crystals.

"It was a public lesson after all, being able to listen is already not too bad!" Leylin comforted himself. He had the A.I Chip and could record the lessons completely. In the future, he could always take them out for reference when he revises. As for the other acolytes, they were in a worse

state. If they did not understand, there was always a price to pay to obtain information from the professors or other acolytes. Leylin was even prepared to earn some Magic Crystals by giving away information from these public lessons.

“Today’s topic was really difficult! The image of that Barren Lizard’s anatomy was only shown for a few seconds. I did not even have time to look at it clearly!” Bill complained.

“There’s no choice! The study of anatomy is a very broad topic, and the images are aplenty, classes will not end if they’re not taught fast enough!” Leylin replied by his side. He was neighbours with Bill, and both of them were fresh acolytes, so they often attended classes together. Their friendship considered pretty good.

As for Kaliweir and the others, because they were designated to various mentors and lived rather far away, they barely maintained their relationships.

“Professor Marlene’s anatomy classes are prerequisites for more advanced topics, so we have to learn it!” Bill was a little frustrated.

“Leylin, did you remember everything from earlier?”

“To memorise everything is impossible, but I have taken notes on most of the diagrams and the images depicting the vital body parts!” Leylin concealed his trump card.

“So awesome! Could you tutor me after classes? I will fork out one Magic Crystal!” Bill made up his mind,

“I want to major in Transfiguration, so I must excel in anatomy!”

“No problem!” Leylin smiled and nodded his head.

The information of the few paid lessons in the academy was not allowed to be traded in private. But as for the public lessons, there were no such restrictions.

Leylin had asked around, and it seemed that the higher level acolytes did not think much of these measly wages, while the lower level acolytes did

not have much confidence to teach and failed to meet the requirements. Hence, this benefitted him greatly.

“However, you know that I have to undergo meditation at night, so let’s schedule the lessons right after dinner. 1-hour lessons for a week. How is it?”

Leylin asked.

“No problem!” Bill answered. This amount of time was similar to that of the paid public lessons, but the tutoring was done one-on-one, so it was a fair price.

After dinner, Leylin went to Bill’s room and tutored him on the topic of anatomy. After an hour, he returned to his dorm.

Playing with the Magic Crystal in his hand, Leylin nodded his head, “Bill knows how to conduct himself, and he has already paid the fees upfront!”

Placing the black crystallised object onto the bed, Leylin took out the black sack hanging from his waist, and poured the contents out on the bed.

A total of four black Magic Crystals were dropped onto the bed, bouncing slightly.

“I am a new acolyte and have only studied for half a month. Apart from Bill and some others, no one believes in my abilities. I have only earned 2 Magic Crystals so far!”

“Ai! It’s hard to earn money through tutoring, and it takes up a lot of time. Senior Merlin can brew a random potion and earn ten times faster than me by selling it!”

Potioneering Masters are rather rare amongst Magi, and a huge investment is needed to become one. However, after succeeding, one can make money at a terrifying pace.

“Almost there! I have a feeling that I will become a Level 1 Acolyte tonight!” After reaching Level 1 Acolyte, I will be able to move the energy particles in the air. Not only will I be able to resist the radiation from the

academy's buildings, I will also be able to attempt to experiment with basic potion brewing!"

Leylin's eyes flashed with excitement, but very soon he recovered the Magic Crystals on the bed properly, exercising restraint. He then sat cross legged on the bed, and began the meditation for the day.

The air in the room quietened down, and only the faint sounds of Leylin's breathing could be heard.

Leylin's chest moved with an undulating pattern and his expression was serene, with only some restless movements beneath his eyelids.

After about an hour, several black spots of light radiated from Leylin's forehead, just like fireflies.

These light spots hovered around Leylin, and finally entered his orifices. It looked a little eerie.

"Hu....."

After the black coloured spots of light entered Leylin's body, he felt his whole body shudder. The muscles on his face twitched, and large beads of sweat rolled down. Very soon, he returned back to having a peaceful state.

After some time, Leylin opened his eyes.

"I have finally advanced to a Level 1 Acolyte! This speed of half of a month is slightly inferior to a regular fourth grade acolyte's."

"Originally, I could have advanced five days ago, but I stopped to stabilise my Spiritual Force. There were few difficulties in advancing this time, which may be attributed to that!"

The one reason for prolonging the date of advancement was to stable the Spiritual Force, and another was to keep a low profile.

A regular third grade acolyte must take around a month's time to turn into a Level 1 Acolyte after receiving the meditation technique.

As for half a month's time, that was the measure of a fourth grade acolyte. Leylin did not wanted to undergo any tests caused by suspicions of him having the wrong aptitude. If the A.I Chip was discovered in the end,

not only would it be lost, his life might also be in danger!

After all, the A.I Chip now has undergone changes after transcending dimensions. It has already fused together with his soul and cannot be separated at all.

“According to the estimations of the A.I Chip, a Level 1 Acolyte’s Spiritual Force is roughly double that of an average adult. Moreover, Spiritual Force seems to have a life of its own, strongly attracting the energy particles in the air towards it!”

Leylin stretched his hands, and a layer of black coloured light wrapped around his arm, like a layer of cotton candy. It also felt a little cooling.

“I have the highest elemental affinity with the Dark element, and will choose to cultivate on the path of the Dark element. This was the plan that I set for myself since long ago. As for the energy particles of Fire and the other elements, I shall just keep a few of them to use it to my advantage in future!”

“Pa!!”

Leylin snapped his fingers several times, and a layer of faint blue light lit up on his body.

What followed next was a layer of steam, which made Leylin’s clothes wet.

“This is similar to taking a shower!” Leylin smiled, and then a layer of red light shone.

As Leylin’s body was enveloped by the red light, water vapour emitted from his body. Very soon the water was all evaporated, and the room seemed to be a little humid.

“After becoming an acolyte, I am able to use these energy particles for simple daily activities, this is really convenient!”

Leylin exclaimed again, and asked, “A.I Chip, have you recorded the processes earlier?”

[Beep! Recording done, please provide a name!]

“Simple usage of Water element and Fire elemental energy particles!]

[Beep! The renaming is done, storing in data bank]

With the help of the A.I Chip, Leylin had one of the best comprehension abilities for the usage of energy particles amongst the Level 1 Acolyte.

Leylin smiled, but as he was about to stand, he suddenly felt giddy.

“I overspent my Spiritual Force earlier!” Leylin realised the reason and smiled bitterly, “The Spiritual Force of a Level 1 Acolyte is still too minuscule. To properly use the energy particles on a daily basis, I must only do it when I am a Level 3 Acolyte at least.

Leylin rubbed his temples, “I already meditated earlier, so now I can only sleep to replenish my Spiritual Force!’

He hurriedly straightened out the room, and entered into a deep sleep.

The next morning, Leylin was filled with vigor as he got off the bed, and headed to Mentor Kroft’s experiment lab.

“Oh? This energy movement?”

The white haired Kroft was startled, and immediately looked at Leylin who had walked in, “Leylin, you have broken through!”

“Yes!” Leylin humbly lowered his head.

“It has only been twenty odd days since you started meditating, it seems like your aptitude amongst the third grade acolytes is outstanding, and it almost reaches that of the fourth grade acolytes!”

Kroft smiled with gratification.

Chapter 25: Elementary Potioneering

“Professor! I have already become a Level 1 Acolyte and have understood the basics from the public lessons.....”

Leylin said softly.

“I know, you wish to choose the subject for the knowledge I am providing!” Kroft interrupted Leylin’s speech.

“I heard that you have already been teaching other acolytes information from the public lessons that you’ve attended to earn Magic Crystals. It seems like your learning and memorising abilities are rather outstanding. From what I see now, you have the capability to learn a information of a higher tier!”

“Thank you!” Leylin bowed deeply.

Leylin had some understanding towards the paid lessons in the academy. Although professors have information on a higher level, it was only their own findings.

As for the other cutting-edge research, including the results from various personal experiments, information was only traded at the professors’ level.

This information was deemed the best, and can even be transferred directly into an acolyte’s memory so they will never forget it.

However, the fees were also the most expensive, each subject required at least ten Magic Crystals, and Leylin simply could not afford it right now.

The only thing he could hope for was the one free subject that Kroft promised at the start.

Kroft nodded his head, and moved the apparatus on his table aside. He then retrieved some strange items from god-knows-where and placed them on the table.

There was a huge book with a yellow cover, a crystal ball, and a test tube filled with yellowish liquid.

“These three items represent my 3 areas of specialisation: The book on

the left represents the Neutralisation of Energy, the crystal ball represents Herbalism, and the test tube represents Potioneering. Make your choice!" Kroft said.

"I choose Potioneering!" The reason Leylin chose Kroft as his mentor was to advance in Potioneering and then rely on selling potions to earn money for his studies, so naturally he chose this.

Elementary Potioneering is an advanced course stemming from the public Potioneering Basics course. In theory, it is possible to start brewing potions after fully understanding these two lessons.

"I knew you would choose this!" The middle-aged Kroft revealed a smile.

"The art of potion brewing is extremely complex and complicated, the slightest mistake will result in a failure. All of the Potion Masters have spent a vast amount of resources to accumulate their experience. Are you ready for this?"

"Yes, Sir! I believe in this saying: You may not be rewarded for hard work, but without hard work, there will definitely be no reward!"

"Indeed! A very good mindset. One needs to have this philosophy on the road to truth!" Kroft nodded and handed the yellow test tube to Leylin.

"This is yours now!"

"This? How do I use it?" Leylin looked at the test tube in his hands.

"Just drink from it directly!"

Leylin opened the wooden plug and poured the yellowish liquid into his mouth.

An obnoxious sewer stench infiltrated his senses, and the smell lingered in his nose. Leylin's face turned red, and tears even came out.

He barely managed to swallow it as he gasped for air.

"I swear, I have never drunk such a smelly thing before!!!"

Smelly!!! An unimaginable stench constantly shocked Leylin's nerves, making him feel like fainting.

Under the stimulation of the extreme smell, the surroundings appeared blurry to Leylin, and the items in the vicinity all seemed to be distorted.

“You.....It feels.....Not so.....”

Leylin looked at Kroft, and at this moment, the professor looked like a noodle, twisting and distorting. The professor's lips opened and closed and he spoke sporadically, which brought about a lot of noise. It sounded like the friction produced between two metals, or some broken radio with poor signal.

Leylin raised his hand, his smooth palms seemed to be filled with folds, and even melted like a candle, falling down one drop at a time.

And finally, Leylin's entire body turned into a puddle of liquid and disappeared completely into the darkness.....

“How do you feel?”

Kroft's voice rang, and Leylin was startled. He touched his head, the hard sensation bringing along warmth and a little moisture.

The surroundings turned back to normal, and Kroft stood there smiling.

“I don't feel too good!” Large amounts of sweat trickled down from Leylin's head.

“Was what I saw earlier an illusion? It felt too real!”

“That is a normal occurrence, the illusionary spells of Magi seem like reality to acolytes, and some acolytes have even experienced their whole life inside the illusions and died of old age!”

Kroft's voice sounded.

“The information has already been transferred into your brain, do some more meditation after you go back!”

At this moment, Leylin discovered a block of new information inside his brain. A phrase appeared on the right side of the text, saying: “Elementary Potioneering”

“Alright! Today your task is to sweep Area 3, and also freeze all the Fire

Ant Grass.....”

Kroft handed out the tasks.

Leylin nodded his head and picked up the tools lying in the corner of the lab, and then headed to Area 3.

“Congratulations, Leylin!” During Leylin’s break time, Bicky came before Leylin.

“I was just lucky!” Leylin smiled lightly.

Bicky had come here a year earlier than him and was also a Level 1 Acolyte.

“Once you are a Level 2 Acolyte, you will be able to use rank 0 spells! Also, the mind runes will only get increasingly difficult. I still have to persevere for at least another year of meditation before I have a chance at advancing.”

With the A.I Chip, Leylin was fully aware of the situation he was in.

On the other side, Merlin, who was boring over his experiments, raised his head and forced a smile that was uglier than crying.

Leylin nodded his head in acknowledgement. He knew that this senior of his had burnt the muscles of his face in an experiment and was now unable to make any facial expressions.

“Magi experiments are really treacherous!” Leylin shook his head.

Leylin was rather efficient and normally finished the task Kroft gave him by noon. If there was spare time in the afternoon, he would go listen to the public lessons.

“Goodbye!” After saying goodbye to Bicky and Merlin, Leylin did not go to the Academic Area, but instead went to the Trading Post.

The Trading Post was huge, and was located beside the Mission Area. However, it was rather chaotic; many grey robed acolytes set up stalls, with an erect signboard stating the items and conditions that they wished to sell or trade.

Once in a while, a few acolytes would engage in haggling, it was extremely bustling.

“It seems like only acolytes are around. As for the Magi, they should have another area to trade in!” Leylin looked on and only saw grey robes, not a single white or black robed Magus was present.

Leylin browsed through the stalls. Some of them were set up on the floor, similar to the previous world’s street vendors, and looked to be a little dirty.

The floor stalls’ items belonged to the miscellaneous category; most of them were bows, knives, darts and so on. There were also the fur, livers, and eyes of living organisms, and some still had traces of blood. The rest were some other items that Leylin could not identify.

As for potions, every stall with ‘Potions’ on its signboard had acolytes clamouring over them. The stall owners all had calm expressions and radiated strong energy waves.

According to the estimation of the A.I Chip, most of these acolytes were Level 3 Acolytes!

“As expected, the rarity of potions is above my imagination, not to mention Magic Artifacts, not a single one is on sale!

Leylin thought of Jayden, who previously used the green coloured badge. That was a low grade Magic Artifact, similar to the ring he had before.

A Level 1 Acolyte could not use any spells, but Jayden had previously subdued Kaliweir through the green badge Magic Artifact.

“Now it seems like the Magic Artifact was given to Jayden by Dorotte!”

Leylin could not help but be a little envious. He previously owned a Magic Artifact too, but unfortunately it had been broken and was used in the transaction for applying to the academy. With these conditions now, it would be extremely difficult to obtain another one.

Leylin looked at the goods on display as he walked towards the centre of the Trading Post.

There were a few wooden huts here, and they seemed to have higher standards compared to the surroundings. The acolytes who occasionally walked in and out radiated strong energy waves.

Leylin casually walked into a shop selling potions.

“What do you need?” The shop owner was a fatty, and wore a grey robe. He looked to be a little lazy. According to the readings of the A.I Chip, he was also a Level 3 Acolyte and even carried a Magic Artifact.

“I need a set of equipment so that I can practice brewing potions!” Leylin said unhurriedly.

“Another one who is dreaming! And it’s actually a Level 1 Acolyte who wants to try brewing potions! You think you’re Merlin?” The fatty scolded him.

“Excuse me, Merlin is my senior and we have the same mentor!” Leylin replied.

“So it’s like this! It turns out you’re Kroft’s apprentice, so already brewing potions at this stage is understandable, it is understandable!” The fatty’s face seemed to be filled with spirit, “So you’re Merlin’s junior, hello, I am Woon!”

The fatty introduced himself, and there was a cunning expression on his face, “Rather than potion brewing, if you are able to get me some of Merlin’s potions, I will give a good price for them. Of course, if they were made by Professor Kroft, it would be even better.....”

“My apologies! Professor Kroft’s potions are impossible! As for Merlin’s, I’ll give it a try!” Leylin rolled his eyes, but he did not reject him outrightly.

“Now, can you give me an introduction of the apparatus?”

“Oh! Of course! Of course!” The fatty rubbed his hands and placed a few sets of glass apparatus on the wooden table.

“There is all of this! They are second hand, but they are still usable. I recommend this set; it’s from a Level 3 Acolyte that did not want it anymore!”

The fatty took out an apparatus set which included beakers, a glass rod, a petri dish, test tubes, and a set of pale yellow tools. It seemed rather complete.

Leylin examined the equipment with his hands.

According to the analysis of the A.I Chip, the quality of this apparatus set was average, but it was enough for him to use.

“I’ll take this one then! How many Magic Crystals?” Leylin asked.

“Two pieces!” The fatty replied.

“Wrap it well for me!” Leylin handed the two Magic Crystals over to the fatty. Fatty received them, and packaged the set before handing it over to Leylin.

“Do you have any elementary potion formulas?” Leylin placed the bundle on his back, and asked again.

“Yes! I have formulas for Strength Potions, Hemostatic Potions, and Bug Removal Potions, which one do you want?”

“The Strength Potion!” These were all elementary potion formulas, so Leylin simply picked one.

“Give me a set of ingredients as well!”

Chapter 26: Starting Attempts

The fatty Woon took out a black coloured box from a shelf behind him and placed it on the table. He also took out a sheet of parchment from under the sales counter. It seemed to be extremely old, with the ends a little torn.

“One copy of the Strength Potion formula, one Magic Crystal!”

“One set of ingredients, enough for ten tries, one Magic Crystal!”

Leylin opened the black coloured box. Inside were ten crimson-coloured fruits arranged neatly, which seemed to have traces of cracks on their surface, and beside them was a root of some green plant, and a bottle of black powder.

Putting the box away and picking up the faint yellowish parchment paper, he saw a formula written in black ink, which even included the areas to note. Although the handwriting was a little faded, it was still legible as a whole.

Leylin nodded his head and tucked the parchment paper into his robes. He took out the last 2 Magic Crystals he had in his waist pouch and handed it to Woon, then left the hut without turning back.

He only had 4 Magic Crystals and had spent them all on this small amount of ingredients. This terrifying expenditure for potion brewing was not something the average acolyte could bear.

What followed next was that Leylin’s daily routine had taken a similar route to how he had been in his previous world.

Every day, he was shuttling to and fro between five places: the dorm, the dining hall, the Academic Area, the experiment lab and the library.

Another month passed unknowingly.

[The gathering of data has been completed!] The A.I Chip’s notification sounded.

Sitting on one side of a long table in the library, Leylin closed the book

he was holding in his hands.

Apart from attending classes and aiding his mentor with his experiments, the majority of his time was spent in the library. Almost every book that could be read for free was browsed through, and the A.I Chip finished accumulating more data.

“Whew..... I have finally understood the formulation of potions!” Leylin exhaled loudly.

Although Kroft had provided some elementary information about Potioneering, there were many things that he still did not understand. He learnt things like the terminology and vocabulary by himself in the library. If he wanted a professor’s explanation he would have had to pay a fee. However, it was a pity that Leylin had turned into a peasant with 0 Magic Crystals.

Many acolytes who were embarrassingly short of Magic Crystals did the same thing, browsing through the variety of free information in the library. However, they did not have Leylin’s A.I Chip, so they usually needed a dozen days to a month to find what they wanted in the library.

As for Leylin, he had now recorded all the information that was available to him in the library already. He even made a search function for it, so the information would be at his perusal if he met with any questions in the future.

However, even Elementary Potioneering was considered higher-tiered information. Even with the constant analyses from the A.I Chip, Leylin only knew about one-third of it, but that was already extremely useful to him.

At least now, when he looked back upon the basics of Potioneering, it was like looking down at the tiles from the roof of a tall building.

As for the elementary potion brewing and the Strength Potion formula, they had been fully analysed, so it was time to put them into practice.

“My accumulation of knowledge is already enough, I’ll begin brewing the Strength Potion today!”

Leylin placed the books back on the shelves and left the library.

A female acolyte with brunette hair raised her head and glanced at Leylin, before returning her attention to the black book in her hands.

The library had many acolytes, and yet they were all well behaved and extremely quiet. It was very suitable for reading, and one of Leylin's favourite hangouts.

"Hey! Leylin!"

When he walked out of the library, an acolyte greeted him. Leylin raised his head, "Ryan! Kaliweir!"

Kaliweir wore the grey robes of an acolyte, and his original haughtiness had lessened, "Congratulations on becoming a Level 1 Acolyte!"

"Thank you, congratulations to you too!" Leylin replied with a smile.

He too had sensed that Kaliweir had turned into a Level 1 Acolyte.

"The few of us in the clique have already turned into Level 1 Acolytes!" Kaliweir stressed the first few words and seemed to have automatically excluded Guricha and the others.

"We have taken up a few missions recently, do you have any interest in joining us?" Kaliweir asked.

Kaliweir seemed to be trying hard to maintain the previous group of friends.

"Do a mission now?" Leylin's brows furrowed, "From what I know, the area outside the academy has been getting dangerous lately, especially for those Level 1 Acolytes who do not even know any spells....."

"There's no choice, any high-tiered information here has to be bought, and Magic Crystals are the only form of currency! The Magic Crystals that we brought have already been spent!" Kaliweir smiled bitterly.

"If you want to be a Potions Master, the expenditure of resources will be extremely great....."

"About taking up missions, I'll consider it again when I have become a

Level 2 Acolyte! Take care of yourselves!” Leylin eventually declined. The rewards for completing missions were extremely alluring, but one needed to risk their life to claim them.

“Alright then! I heard that you are earning Magic Crystals by giving tuition to others. Could you also teach us, it can be in accordance to your rates!”

After hearing that Leylin was unwilling to go, Kaliweir felt a little dejected, but he continued to ask.

“Definitely, it’ll be my pleasure. I can even give you guys favourable rates!” Leylin smiled lightly, exchanging benefits was always the norm for Magi.

Both sides decided on the location and date, and then Kaliweir and his party left after that.

Seeing their departing figures, Leylin’s eyes flashed, “He is still roping people in? What a pity, Kaliweir has still not understood that in the world of Magi, one’s own strength holds the most importance!”

Shaking his head, he returned to his dorm.

Every acolyte in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had a dorm of their own, so secrecy and safety were not an issue.

Leylin locked the door and hung up a ‘Do Not Disturb’ sign, only then did he return to the room beside the bedroom.

A large black coloured table occupied the room, and Leylin’s previously bought apparatus set had been placed on it.

“After a few attempts at practicing, I am now a little more familiar with these apparatus, and I finished analysing the formula for the Strength Potion today, so it’s about time to start!”

Leylin muttered to himself and took out the black box containing the ingredients. He placed it on the table and opened it.

The crimson fruit, green stem and bottle of black powder appeared before his eyes.

Leylin's fingers stroked the surfaces of these 3 items, "A.I Chip! Measure the activity within and establish a model!"

[Establishing scan, in the midst of gathering data, beginning construction!]

"Begin the simulation of the experiment!" Seeing the A.I Chip complete its task, Leylin gave it another command.

[Simulation of model in process..... Strength Potion Formula.....
Estimated time consumed: 2 hours 21 minutes!]

"As expected, it's possible!" Leylin smiled jubilantly.

Even for identical ingredients, the slightest deviation would result in different results when making the potion.

As for qualified Potions Masters, they must make use of their experience and put the theory into practice, then make adjustments to obtain the desired properties of the potion.

This field only relied on raw talent and the future accumulation of experience.

As for the A.I Chip, it was able to scan and produce simulations, resulting in a success rate that was much higher than for many other acolytes.

Leylin patiently waited for some time, and then heard the A.I Chip's voice, [The simulation of the model is completed, success rate: 23.6%]

"A success rate close to one-quarter?" Leylin was in ecstasy.

"A regular acolyte will always fail on their first attempt at brewing potions. As for me, I'll be able to have a one in four chance of success if I follow the A.I Chip's instructions?"

"Begin transmitting the process for the experiment!"

[Beginning the transmission of data!] A few images flashed by Leylin's eyes as if he had already practiced making these potions countless of times. Various scenarios and their suitable responses, as well as the preparation of ingredients, were all presented in front of him.

“It’s time to start!”

Leylin’s expression turned solemn, and he picked up a crimson fruit, “This is a Blood Vitality Fruit and it contains a huge amount of nourishment if it was prepared in an antidote.....”

Leylin placed the Blood Vitality Fruit into a white basin. He picked up a pounding tool and smashed the fruit into a pulp. The red juices flowed out, and an alcoholic scent was emitted from it.

After filtering out the mashed Blood Vitality Fruit, Leylin poured the red juice into a beaker.

After the black candlestick had been lit, light blue flames continuously lapped at the bottom of the beaker. Within minutes, the red juice in the beaker started to boil, and a few flecks of black powder constantly jumped about in the bubbles.

Leylin picked up the glass rod beside him, and stirred the contents of the beaker.

“Marliwoosha!” Leylin chanted.

A thread of Spiritual Force travelled through the glass rod and entered the bubbling liquid, and a few wisps of black gas continued to be produced. It was the poison inside the Blood Vitality Fruit.

This was why only a Level 1 Acolyte and above could start to practice making potions, as a few steps required the usage of energy particles.

After all of the black gaseous substance were expelled, Leylin placed the liquid, which was even more crimson than before, into a test tube.

“The first step is completed! The degree of purification isn’t bad!”

“The next part should be the stem of the Silk Fruit.....”

What Leylin did next was to prepare the rest of the Blood Vitality Fruit and Silk Fruit together. He failed somewhere in the middle for a few times, and finally succeeded after making the 8th batch of the crimson liquid and the 7th batch of the frozen green substance.

“The next step should be the final blending process!”

Leylin placed the contents of the frozen green substance onto a petri dish, took out the black powder from the glass bottle, and sprinkled it on top.

The black powder caused a strong reaction after coming into contact with the frozen green substance. The frozen green substance continued to swell and let out a humming noise.

“Ice!” Leylin muttered an incantation in the Byrn language.

White mist suddenly appeared from the petri dish, condensing into a layer of ice and solidifying the frozen green substance yet again.

“It is time!” Leylin placed the frozen lump into a beaker, where a flame blazed continuously underneath the beaker.

“The final step!” Leylin’s eyes widened, and he poured the purified crimson liquid into the beaker.

A thread of his Spiritual Force also continuously extended into the beaker.

“Pa!” A sound suddenly came from the beaker, the frozen lump and the red liquid suddenly turned black, and a sickening stench emitted from it.

“Have I failed?” Leylin was indifferent.

“A.I Chip, analyse the reason!”

[Beep! In the process of analysing.....Conclusion: The Host’s Spiritual Force was unstable, and the temperature of the flames caused some distortion.....]

The A.I Chip replayed Leylin’s earlier actions and revealed the reason for failure.

Chapter 27: Successful Potion Brewing

Leylin dumped the failed experiment residue into the bin and inhaled deeply.

“Again!”

The same process was repeated, and finally, the purified crimson liquid from the Blood Vitality Fruit was poured into the beaker.

This time, Leylin shifted all his concentration onto the beaker and continued to adjust the temperature of the flame below it.

The red liquid and the frozen green substance continued to merge together, turning a faint yellowish colour.

“Green life, Blood red vitality. Under the interference of the willpower from the depths of the abyss, you shall fuse! Furikesha Keleyahsan.....”

Leylin chanted the final phase of the incantation.

The various colours in the beaker continued to fuse together as he chanted. The substance finally turned into a faint blue colour liquid and emitted a fragrant and alluring scent.

“It’s completed! I successfully brewed the Strength Potion!”

Leylin smiled lightly, and poured the light blue liquid into a tiny test tube.

“The liquid in this finger-length test tube can provide the nourishment that a person needs for 7 days, and also ensure that the person’s physical body and mental energy will be vigorous. It is a favourite for people who work on long experiments and adventurers! The normal price is 5 Magic Crystals!”

Leylin shook the test tube, and the potion inside glowed enchantingly under the light.

One night passed, Leylin looked at the three light blue test tubes that he held absentmindedly.

“With ten sets of ingredients, I succeeded three times and obtained three

potions!

“This news definitely cannot be leaked out; otherwise I will not be able to explain myself!” Leylin resolved, and destroyed the three test tubes containing the potions.

“What a pity!” Leylin was a little heartbroken.

“These 3 potions are worth 15 Magic Crystals, but the production cost is only 1 Magic Crystal. This potion industry has a crazy profit margin of over a dozen times its cost!!!”

“But I’m unable to sell them now! Aaarghhh!!” Leylin was rather exasperated.

“Not only can I not sell the potions, I still need to earn money to buy ingredients to continue my experiments and put on a façade of failure. I can only sell the most basic of potions after half a year!”

This estimate was based on Merlin’s success rate. He did not want to stand out and attract too much attention. Hence, he had to perform a little worse than Merlin. Merlin had a huge amount of ingredients and continuously practiced brewing back then. Only after a month did he manage to brew his first potion. Leylin did not have many Magic Crystals, so he could only show his talent in potion brewing after half a year.

He was, after all, an apprentice of the Potion’s Professor, and when he finally brewed his first potion successfully after half a year of failure, he would only be labelled as an ordinary talent as an apprentice of the Potion’s Professor, which was extremely logical.

“Potions absolutely cannot be sold in large quantities within the academy grounds, unless..... I am able to find a black market? But travelling outside the academy is too dangerous!”

Leylin shook his head, tidied up the experiment apparatus, and walked out of the room.

“This also proves that having such a high precision A.I Chip gives me a huge edge over others in tasks with troublesome details! What’s next is to continue to focus and break through to a Level 2 Acolyte!”

“After I have the ability, I will abide by this cycle of selling potions, earning Magic Crystals, and gaining knowledge.”

Leylin still needed close to a year’s time to break through to a Level 2 Acolyte, according to the calculations from the A.I Chip.

After all, it would get increasingly harder to construct the 24 mind runes as the runes multiplied, and he also needed to accumulate more knowledge.

“In this period, I can constantly gather data and finish compiling the information on Spiritual Force. This will be very useful to me in the future!”

Unknowingly, another half a year passed just like that.

A brown-haired youth lowered his head as he walked on the black tiled pavement, as if he was deep in thought.

This youth looked to be only thirteen or fourteen years of age, and had brown hair. His face was unusually pale, if it had not seen the sun for a long time.

This youth was naturally Leylin. At this moment, his right hand was hidden inside his sleeves, holding on to a test tube, and he appeared to be making some kind of choice.

“It has already been half a year since the first time I successfully brewed a potion,!” Leylin looked at the acolytes walking past him and thought to himself.

In this half a year, many things had happened within the academy. For instance Fayle achieved some great accomplishments, and Merlin managed to brew a new potion. The fame of these geniuses only increased.

However, Leylin was more concerned with the fact that Jayden had already advanced to a Level 2 Acolyte.

He recalled that when Kaliweir spoke of this news, he could not hide the fear and envy in his eyes despite trying his best to conceal it.

The aptitude, as well as advancement, of a fifth grade acolyte was

extremely startling.

As a fellow acolyte who came from the same area as him, Leylin did not have much thoughts towards it. He buried himself with the work he had to do, and to an outsider, he was just an ordinary Level 1 Acolyte.

In this half year, Leylin had bought many of the Strength Potion ingredients and conducted many potion-brewing sessions. He also invested all of the profit he earned from giving tuition into this potion making. He also put up a front to conceal the A.I Chip and tried to brew a potion without the A.I Chip's help most of the time, which had a success rate of zero. So far, he had spent a dozen odd Magic Crystals on this.

Of course, he also brought forward the problems he encountered to his mentor, Kroft, at times and asked other questions about the basics and brewing techniques. This was greatly beneficial for his Potioneering.

Secretly, Leylin could already affirm that with the help of the A.I Chip, his Potioneering skills had already surpassed Merlin, only being a little inferior to his mentor, Kroft.

Today, it would be the day he 'accidentally' succeeded in brewing a potion and let his mentor evaluate it.

This time, the successful product was controlled by him through the A.I Chip. He purposely made some minute errors, making it seem like an inferior product that was made by an acolyte, but it would still be considered decent for a new acolyte.

Leylin's palm, which was gripping the potion, uncontrollably tightened.

"Only after today, can I start to sell a few potions in broad daylight and earn some Magic Crystals! Yesterday, I heard Raynor say that he already felt close to advancing. Therefore, my progress can't lag behind too much!"

Leylin hurriedly walked into Kroft's experiment lab.

"Leylin, do you have more problems with the brewing of the Strength Potion?" Kroft could clearly feel that his apprentice was different today.

“No, Sir!” Leylin inhaled deeply, “I have already succeeded once last night!”

“What?” The beaker in Kroft hands trembled, “Although your talent in Potioneering has exceeded my expectations, the brewing of a Strength Potion is not that easy!”

After half a year, Kroft was able to sense his apprentice’s frightening improvement after being questioned so much. However, he still felt that Leylin was still lacking in regards to brewing the Strength Potion successfully.

Hearing this, Merlin’s hand shook while he was concentrating on lowering a red crystal bead into a test tube. Black smoke emitted from the test tube and Merlin sighed, turning his attention over here.

As for Bicky, she just leaned over directly.

“Did you bring the completed potion?” Kroft asked.

“It’s in here!” Leylin took out a blue-coloured test tube and handed it to the professor.

Kroft unplugged the wooden stopper and took a sniff. His face revealed a startled expression.

He then poured a drop on his finger. A fine, milky-white light extended from between his brows and directly pierced the droplet, making it shake.

Kroft closed his eyes, his brows furrowed and soon relaxed.

“The purification of the Blood Vitality Fruit was not bad, but too much was added at the end. There was also some problem with your usage of Spiritual Force, which damaged the chemical properties.....All in all, there are quite a few problems, but you have succeeded as a whole! Congratulations!”

Kroft smiled jubilantly.

Hearing this, Leylin also smiled, and Bicky even cheered, giving Leylin a warm hug.

The fiery hot curves of this girl attached themselves onto Leylin’s chest,

which gave rise to a peculiar feeling in his heart.

“Congratulations!” Merlin walked over too.

“Compared to Senior Merlin, I still have much to learn!” Leylin let go of Bicky, and hurriedly said.

“You don’t have to be too humble, compared to Merlin, your resources are lacking. I guarantee that you would have been able to brew your first potion in 3 to 4 months otherwise. In Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, this talent can already be considered excellent!” Kroft exclaimed.

“Thinking back now, I am really lucky. First, I accepted Merlin, who has talent in Potioneering, as my apprentice. And now, I have you!” Kroft exclaimed.

“Sir, I will also work hard!” Bicky clenched her small fists and returned to her experiment table.

“Finish preparing the Monkey Headed Mushrooms in your hands first, before you say anything else!” Kroft’s face turned stiff.

After that, he returned the Strength Potion to Leylin, “This time, luck played an important factor in brewing the Strength Potion. What you have to do next is to remember how it felt when you first succeeded, and then practice more. This test tube can also be sold and exchanged for more resources!”

Kroft seemed to be reminding him, “Leylin, you must remember. Different potions have different challenges for Potioneering Masters. Although you are able to brew this Strength Potion right now, you would most likely revert back to a newbie if you were to replace it with a Hemostatic Potion. Therefore, do not be arrogant. From now on, focus on practicing your potion brewing!”

“I will!” Leylin pocketed the Strength Potion well, and promised solemnly.

After he finished his tasks in the experiment lab, Leylin left together with Bicky.

“Shall we go to the second level dining hall to feast, to commemorate your first success?” Bicky ran in front and twirled around a few times, as if she was a lively butterfly.

“Of course! It is my honour to invite a beautiful lady to a meal!” Leylin bowed slightly, a gentleman’s propriety.

“Hehe!” Bicky covered her mouth and laughed adorably, and then her expression darkened, “If only.....If only he was like you.....”

“What’s wrong? Your Senior Fayle is ignoring you again?”

Leylin knew a little about this matter. In this half year, Bicky gradually got closer to Fayle and finally became friends with him, but they were only normal friends.

As for Fayle, he was constantly studying and practicing, and taking risks outside the academy. He was always surrounded by beautiful girls, so he did not think much of Bicky and was a little standoffish.

“It’s not that! Fayle just has a very important experiment coming up and is in the midst of collecting resources, so he’s very busy.....” Bicky lowered her head and kicked a pebble off the sidewalk.

Chapter 28: For Sale

“Something’s not right!” A thought suddenly occurred to Leylin.

“You..... Could you have given him your family’s resources? No wonder you are still a Level 1 Acolyte! Otherwise, with your aptitude, you should have advanced to the next level long ago!”

Bicky belonged to a small Magus Family. Although small in size, they were still capable of obtaining the occasional resources and Magic Crystals. As for Bicky, the one whom the family placed all its hopes on, she was naturally given a fixed share each month.

Her aptitude was not bad, and she had arrived earlier than Leylin by a year. By right, she should have been promoted to a Level 2 Acolyte long ago. However, she was still a Level 1 Acolyte, and even Leylin had nearly caught up to her.

“It’s.....It’s not like that!” Bicky hurriedly shook her head.

Seeing Bicky’s expression, Leylin slowly shook his head. “Forget it! I can’t really do anything for you regarding this matter... However, you must remember to be more careful!”

Leylin hinted.

“Alright! Let’s go to the dining hall on the second floor!! I hear that the honey-flavoured cake there isn’t bad.....” Bicky smiled, and it was obvious she did not want to talk about this topic anymore.

The second level dining hall was a special place. Contrary to the third level cafeteria where the food was served for free, the service here had to be paid for in Magic Crystals.

It was the first time Leylin had come here. After ordering two honey-flavoured cakes, a beef steak, two fruit juices, and the flesh of a Uni-horned Lizard, the total came up to 1 Magic Crystal and made Leylin feel a pang in his heart.

“I’ve heard that if the flesh of these lizards is specially prepared, it is very beneficial for a Magus’s meditation, so I must try it today!”

Leylin used a knife to slice off a part of the lizard meat, picked the meat up with a fork, and placed it into his mouth. He instantly felt the fragrant flavour of the meat spread throughout his taste buds, and Leylin's eyes lit up in wonderment.

[Beep! An ingredient with a beneficial effect on the Host's body has been detected! Result: Mild increase in meditation. Hint: requires 10 continuous days of consumption for an obvious increase in effect!]

"I....." Leylin was speechless. "It's such a splendid item, but how could I have that many Magic Crystals? I can only eat it for its flavour!"

On the other side, Bicky was very happily eating the honey-flavoured cake.

After their meal, Leylin bade farewell to Bicky and went to the Trading Post.

Leylin had very few Magic Crystals to begin with, but now he planned to sell the Strength Potion. With Kroft's approval, he could earn Magic Crystals by brewing and selling more Strength Potions.

After walking past the chaotic stalls, Leylin arrived at Woox's stall, the stall he had bought potion ingredients from during his first visit to this place.

"Leylin! It's you again! You have spent dozens of Magic Crystals this half year! Haven't you given up yet?" Woox was still as fat as ever.

"Potioneering is such an enchanting skill, I cannot bear to give it up!" Leylin said, half-jokingly.

"However, today I am here not just to buy ingredients," Leylin said as he handed the Strength Potion over to fatty Woox, "Look at this!"

"This is....." Woox gaped, "You've succeeded?"

"Of course!" Leylin smiled lightly.

What Woox did next was to make a thorough inspection, and after ensuring that it was indeed an authentic Strength Potion, his eyes almost seemed to glow.

“Over a hundred times! You have only attempted it around a hundred times and yet you’ve succeeded in brewing a Strength Potion! This talent.....This talent is only slightly inferior to Merlin’s!”

Most of the ingredients were sold to Leylin by Woox, so he was able to deduce Leylin’s talent very quickly.

“As if! This is due to Mentor Kroft’s guidance!” Leylin said bashfully.

“Oh! It’s Kroft again, he already has such a talented student like Merlin, why did they send yet another gifted student to him?”

The fatty slapped his forehead and let out a shrill voice, “Why don’t you consider changing mentors? My mentor, Wranke, is also a professor who is adept in Potioneering.....He will definitely like you!”

“My apologies! I have never considered changing at all!” Leylin hurriedly rejected the offer. Kroft treated him rather well, and he would surely incur the wrath of the Magus if he changed mentors on a whim. He simply did not want to take that risk.

“What a pity.....” The fatty shook his head, he clearly knew that he had been grasping at straws.

“Alright! I will be able to give you 4 Magic Crystals for this Strength Potion, how about it?” The fatty asked.

Although the Strength Potion was priced at 5 Magic Crystals, 4 Magic Crystals was a reasonable price when considering the profit that was to be made by the stall.

“It’s a fair deal, exchange the Magic Crystals for more ingredients for the Strength Potion!”

“Alright! If you wish to sell any more Strength Potions in the future, I will buy them all at the price of 4 Magic Crystals per potion!” Woxx’s eyes flashed.

An acolyte with a Potioneering talent that was slightly lower than Merlin’s was akin to a Magic Crystal mine that had yet to be excavated.

“Definitely! To a good partnership!”

Leylin and Woox shook hands, and after collecting four black boxes, he walked out from the hut.

“Look quickly! Fresh Mountain Cat eyeballs! This is an item that will greatly benefit your meditation!”

“Exquisite cross blades, as well as military crossbows. All imported from the Deep Blue Kingdom!”

“Feathers of a flamingo! A precious ingredient for experiments, only 5 Magic Crystals!”

Here and there, various acolytes were promoting their wares. Leylin saw a black-robed acolyte holding up a huge 5 coloured feather and advertising continuously, which obviously attracted a huge crowd.

“A.I Chip! Scan the feather!”

[Beep! Comparing to databank! Similarity level: Mynah’s tail feathers 83%, homegrown peacock 64%, sharp-beaked crane 34%]

Leylin looked at the acolyte who was still advertising his goods and was speechless. Flamingo feathers are rare, but the 3 bird feathers that the A.I Chip detected were so common that acolytes wouldn’t bother to pick them up if they fell to the ground. Obviously, it was a scam.

This situation was rather common in such stalls. Although goods are rather good, the counterfeit goods are also aplenty. Hence, Leylin always bought from the wooden huts in the centre area.

Moreover, acolytes are sharp, and the chances of finding a cheap yet good item in the stalls and striking big are the same as finding the remnants of dead Magi.

Leylin shook his head and left the Trading Post.

Three days later, Leylin was in his dorm, looking at sixteen test tube lined up properly on his table, deep in thought.

Right now, his success rate for brewing a Strength Potion is almost at the same level at Kroft at 40%. However, he would be seeking trouble if he were to sell them all at once!

“Right now I am only able to put on a front and earn just a little, so at most it will be 2 test tubes! As for the rest, I will have to stow them away.

Leylin sighed and placed 2 test tube in the purse hanging around his waist, and then stowed the remaining 14 test tubes in the empty space under his bed.

“I won’t be able to sell huge amounts within the academy, so I had better find some other way outside. The best scenario would be a black market; I hear prices there are higher too!”

“The outside world is dangerous; I must become a Level 2 Acolyte before going out!”

“What’s next, I can use the Magic Crystals I earned from selling potions to buy higher tiered knowledge from Kroft, and expedite my break through to Level 2 Acolyte!”

“After becoming a Level 2 Acolyte, I can attempt to practice magic spells, and take a mission outside to see if I can find ways to sell the potions.....”

Leylin pondered, and then asked, “A.I Chip, bring forth my current stats!”

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 1 Acolyte. Strength: 2.1, Agility: 2.3, Vitality: 2.5, Status: Healthy]

“After such a long period of meditation, my Vitality has increased the most. As for Strength and Agility, they have increased a little too. As for my Spiritual Force?” Leylin looked at the data in front of him and his brows furrowed.

“A.I Chip, are you able to convert my Spiritual Force into data and display it?”

[Data is insufficient. Information for Spiritual Force is being collated.] The A.I Chip replied.

“When will it be ready?” Leylin asked.

[Estimated time: 155 Days 21 Hours]

“Half a year, huh? It is close to when I advance to Level 2 Acolyte.”

Leylin nodded his head, "I'm not planning to leave in this next half a year, so it's no big deal!"

What followed next was that Leylin entered into a state of painstaking training.

Apart from aiding Kroft in his daily experiments, he was brewing potions, exchanging them for Magic Crystals, and then purchasing more information.

Besides brewing Strength Potions, he also bought the formulas for the Hemostasis Potion and some low leveled antidotes, and began to practice brewing them.

With the A.I Chip, the success rate was not bad, but this fact was concealed by Leylin.

During this period, Leylin also heard some bad news - Kaliweir's team had met with trouble on a mission. Not only had some been injured, others had also died. The acolyte who came with him in the same Dirigible, third-grade acolyte Hank, would forever be buried in the Abyssal Bone Marsh.

Leylin was expecting a similar result, as a Level 1 Acolyte only has a small resistance to magic. It would be abnormal if they risked their lives and was free of injuries or loss of lives.

After this incident, Kaliweir and his team seemed to face reality and started to be content with studying in the academy, not daring to take on any other missions.

In the blink of an eye, Leylin grew a little taller and his face acquired a tinge of maturity.

"I am finally 14 too!" Seeing that his palms had grown a little larger, he felt deeply moved.

The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy seemed to have a spell formation regulating the temperature. Leylin always wore the grey robe for acolytes, but he never felt any stifling heat or frigidness.

“Sir! I want to purchase the crystal ball with the magic spell formulas!”

Leylin stood in front of Kroft.

“Oh! You want to begin learning Rank 0 spells?” Kroft cusped the porcelain cup that was emitting steam and heat in his hand, and sipped from it.

“I have nearly finished constructing my mind runes, and there’s only one more step needed before I advance to a Level 2 Acolyte. I wish to make some preparations for this beforehand!”

Leylin said warmly.

“Being able to progress in both Potioneering and also meditation, I am very gratified!” Kroft said, as he stole a glance at Bicky who was nearby.

Bicky had only advanced into a Level 2 Acolyte two days ago, and never exhibited any extraordinary talents towards Potioneering. With her aptitude, this could be considered a slow pace.

“The academy price for the basic model of magic spells is 30 Magic Crystals, I am able to give you a discount to 20 Magic Crystals!”

“Although I could also give you this information for free, I want you to know that you will only achieve results with effort!”

Kroft smiled lightly. This was the authority of the professors. They could give students favourable prices, or even give the information free of charge. It all depended on the mood of the professor. From this, it was obvious that Kroft approved of Leylin.

Chapter 29: Rank 0 Spell

“Of course! I will always remember the teachings of my mentor!”

Leylin hurriedly nodded his head and took out 20 Magic Crystals from the black pouch hung on his waist.

20 black Magic Crystals fell onto the table and let off a dark luster.

“Very well! This is a crystal ball with the basic model of magic spells recorded on it. You can study it, but remember to only practice it after you have been promoted!”

Kroft took a fist sized crystal ball off the wooden shelf at the side and handed it to Leylin. Golden words seemed to ripple inside it.

Leylin stooped over to take it, and pocketed the crystal ball.

These crystal balls were tools to record information in, and they could store more information than sheets of parchment. However, they could only be used once, and the information inside would fade away after someone viewed the contents, and hence, they were rather costly.

Deep in the night, Leylin sat on the bed within his dorm and held the crystal ball in his hands.

“Magi have named the spells that acolytes are able to cast Rank 0 spells, to differentiate from the spells that Magi can cast.

“No matter if they are a Level 2 Acolyte or Level 3 Acolyte, they are only able to use Rank 0 spells! Furthermore, they need to be first class Magi to be able to cast them without injury, and this is often a sign of becoming an official Magus!”

“The principle of magic spells models is to construct a model in your mind with your Spiritual Force. After that, you use the nature of your Spiritual Force to attract the external energy particles and transform them intricately, turning them into a spell!”

“To put it simply, the Spiritual Force is the primer, and the spell model is the catalyst. The primer is always the same, but under the effect of

different catalysts, different types of energy particles will be attracted to it to form a different spell!”

Leylin concluded, and put the crystal ball away.

“Constructing a spell model is a complicated matter. In addition, your Spiritual Force will be impaired once you fail and will need at least half a month to recover. This is a bottleneck that even fifth grade acolytes are unable to breakthrough with ease. However, I can minimise my failures with help from the A.I Chip!”

“After advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte, I must construct a spell model and even buy the various spell models. This would be a big expense if not for my improvement in Potioneering; normal acolytes would have to risk their lives many times over before they earned enough Magic Crystals!”

From this, Leylin could discern the bloody price one must pay on the path of a Magus.

Compared to the Magic Crystals earned by risking his life as a Level 1 Acolyte, he would earn more by selling potions.

“Monopolising the market will yield the greatest profits!”

“All these are none of my concern, what I have to do now is to advance to a Level 2 Acolyte!”

A Level 1 Acolyte could only store a slight amount of energy particles in their body and have a basic magic resistance. However, their usage of energy particles is rather shallow, and hence they are unable to cast magic.

As for a Level 2 Acolyte, the greatest difference is that they are able to cast Rank 0 spells.

A Rank 0 spell that is amplified by the spell’s model will have a greater destructive effect compared to the simple usage of energy particles.

“I have almost finished with the construction of my 24 mind runes. Tonight, I will advance to a Level 2 Acolyte!”

There was resolve on Leylin’s face.

One night passed.

In the dorm, Leylin opened his eyes.

“I have finally advanced to a Level 2 Acolyte! I can sense that the energy particles in my body have increased several times more than when compared to a Level 1 Acolyte!”

[Beep! Spiritual Force can now be represented in figures, proceed with conversion?] At this moment, the voice of the A.I Chip sounded.

“Hm? It seems to be two days faster than expected! What happened?”

[The Spiritual Force of the Host has increased and there is an unknown effect on the A.I Chip. Processing speed has increased!]

A screen was projected by the A.I Chip, and it was littered with many curved lines and numbers. From this, one could see that the processing ability of the A.I Chip had been raised last night.

“It seems like the A.I Chip has indeed undergone some qualitative changes after transcending worlds. Now that it has fused with my soul, the increase in Spiritual Force when my soul became more powerful has indirectly affected the A.I Chip!”

Leylin’s guessed that the subject of souls was the most unfathomable. Although Abyssal Bone Forest Academy claimed to be a pioneer in this area, they only managed to experience and grasp a few behaviours and patterns of the ectoplasmic beings. Moreover, only an official Magus was qualified to browse this information. For Leylin, it was still a long journey ahead.

“My A.I Chip having the ability to represent my Spiritual Force in numbers is also a good thing. Bring out my current stats!”

[Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte. Strength: 2.2, Agility: 2.4, Vitality: 2.7, Spiritual Force: 4.1, Status: Healthy]

The A.I Chip projected a 3D image in front of Leylin eyes and displayed his stats.

“The Spiritual Force can finally be shown in numbers. My Spiritual Force

stat is almost equivalent to that of 4 people combined?”

Leylin looked at the image and asked, “A.I Chip! Investigate the reason for the decreased growth after advancing to a Level 2 Acolyte!”

[Mission establishing, inspection in process!]

[Reason discovered: The Host has more resistance!] The A.I Chip’s voice sounded.

“As expected! Using radiation to increase my stats has its limits! I wonder what methods those official Magi used to strengthen their bodies?”

Leylin touched his chin.

There was also a small district between the Academic Area and the Trading Post. It was where the academy sold higher-levelled goods. Although the items had set standards, they were more expensive. The service of the staff was also bad and they were extremely cold.

Leylin came to the front of a counter. Behind the glass casing was a grave looking old lady who wore a deadpanned expression as if Leylin owed her a lot of Magic Crystals.

“Sorry to bother you!” Leylin bowed slightly. He could sense the energy waves of a Level 3 Acolyte radiating from this old lady.

“A.I Chip! Inspect!”

“What do you want?” The old lady’s voice sounded. It contained a gloomy and chilly air, like a cold, glossy fish scale, and gave people goose bumps.

[Beep! Name: Unknown. Strength: 2.0, Agility: 2.1, Vitality: 3.5, Spiritual Force: 7.6, Status: Healthy]

With the A.I Chip providing the information, he confirmed that this old lady was indeed a Level 3 Acolyte, but her Spiritual Force was rather low, as if she had been injured before. However, it was still a piece of cake for her to deal with Leylin.

“The A.I Chip can already inspect the stats of the acolytes and other

living organisms. It just cannot get past the defensive abilities of a Magus still!”

Leylin mustered the best smile he had, “Would you let me have a look at the basic spell models?”

“Take it!” The old lady flung a dusty large book over to him and did not seem even slightly bothered about whether he was going to buy it or not.

“I’m not angry! I’m not angry!” Leylin psyched himself and opened the book.

A spell model and the corresponding introduction appeared in his vision.

“Secondary Energy Fireball. Description: Summon a formidable fireball to attack your enemies. Prerequisite courses: Foundations of Negative Energy, Construction of Spell Models.”

“Shadow Sphere. Description: Use Shadow Energy to construct a fairly covert sphere. Prerequisite courses: Necromancy Studies, Transfiguration.”

“Acidic Aqua Shot. Description: Create an acidic ball with immense corrosive properties. Able to correct the trajectory slightly. Prerequisite courses: Foundations of Negative Energy, Psychology.”

“Umbra’s Hand. Description: Ability to use Negative Energy to form a concealed palm in the shadows for attacking. Extremely covert. Prerequisite courses: Shadow Studies, Basic Evocation.

“All of these are the most basic spells, are there any that could be advanced further?” Leylin’s brows furrowed.

“None! We only provide the basic spell types here. As for the rest, get them from your mentor!”

“Give me the spell model for Acidic Aqua Shot and Umbra’s Hand!” Leylin inhaled deeply.

“One will cost 10 Magic Crystals!” The old lady seemed to be annoyed.

After handing over 20 Magic Crystals to the lady, Leylin obtained two thick books made of parchment paper. ‘Umbra’s Hand’ was written on the

cover of the top book, in the Byron language.

This counter was obviously constructed in a manner that let the sales staff always sit in a taller position than the customers. Leylin was a little pissed off at having to look up at the old lady.

He carried the two books and turned around, not wanting to stay for a moment longer.

“Leylin!” On the way back, a voice sounded and Leylin halted in his footsteps.

A male wearing leather armour ran over, “Earlier, I saw a silhouette of someone who looked like you, and it was indeed you. We haven’t met for a long time!”

Kaliweir greeted.

The leather armour he wore was rather damaged and looked rather pitiful as it was not repaired.

“You are..... Buying spell models? Have you advanced to a Level 2 Acolyte?” Kaliweir looked at Leylin who was holding the two spell books, seemingly startled.

“Yeah! I have just advanced! So I bought them to learn from!” Leylin answered.

“A.I Chip, inspect Kaliweir!”

[Beep! Kaliweir. Strength: 2.6, Agility: 2.8, Vitality: 3.1, Spiritual Force: 4.1, Assessment: Level 2 Acolyte]

“It seems like Kaliweir advanced not long before I did, this data shows the stats of an acolyte who had just advanced!”

Leylin evaluated secretly.

Ever since the previous incident, our team has taken up very few missions. Raynor has also advanced to a Level 2 Acolyte recently and wanted to try learning a spell model. It’s a pity that he has yet to pass a few basic theory lessons after failing them several times.....”

Kaliweir placed his hands in his pocket, obviously wanting to look cooler.

After sizing up Leylin's new grey robes, he said, "You are indeed worthy of being a Potioneering student, having so much money!"

Leylin smiled. Not only do the grey robes of the acolytes have spells which remove stains, the fabric was also good. The defensive capabilities could be comparable to leather armour so the price was rather hefty. Many acolytes did not have the capability to buy another after damaging their set of robes.

However, Leylin was different; he even had two more sets stored in his wardrobe.

Recently, my success rate has increased a little and I earned more Magic Crystals. However, after buying the spell models, I have spent them all again!" Leylin put on a helpless expression.

"Yeah! Each and every cost in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is too high!" Kaliweir's expression was not too good. He came from a first-class noble family in the Chernobyl Islands, but he discovered he was actually extremely broke when he got here.

"Speaking of this, after we have all advanced to Level 2 Acolytes and mastered our spells, shall we all take up a mission?"

Leylin asked.

"Really? That would be great!" Kaliweir was extremely gleeful. It seemed as though he had been considering it for a long time.

Chapter 30: Experimenting With Spells

Leylin and Kaliweir discussed the finer details and then bade farewell to each other.

Leylin contemplated deeply before deciding to go on a mission with Kaliweir and his team.

He still had a lot of potions which he did not dare to sell, so he could only seek for alternatives.

Moreover, converting the knowledge gained from learning a spell into battle experience requires a continuous process of battling.

Regarding battle experience, Kaliweir and his team's average strength were similar to his and they also came from the same region. Everyone also knew each other beforehand which was naturally better than being with an unfamiliar group of people.

Furthermore, Kaliweir has undergone a long period of arduous training and has learnt a lot. Since he could be considered to have an abundant of experience, Leylin was more at ease with his team.

“When I master the spell model, my plan is to follow Kaliweir and his team on a mission and accumulate some experience. After that, I'll leave the academy on my own and seek alternative ways.....”

Returning back to his dorm, Leylin picked up the Umbra's Hand spell book.

The yellow cover of the spell book was extremely sturdy like leather, and there were some patterns on it which sent an icy cold feeling from Leylin's fingertips into his body.

The book was tightly bound by a metal chain and the ends were clipped in the fashion of a belt.

“Learning the Umbra's Hand requires research in Shadow energy and Evocation. I've learned both long ago!”

Via selling potions, Leylin continuously improved his knowledge by

acquiring advanced information on the Shadow element and studying them.

“The incantation for opening it - Mansidala!” Leylin spoke in a low voice.

After hearing the incantation, the book suddenly trembled and, amidst the trembling, the black chains automatically untied by themselves and the pages started to flip through.

“A.I Chip, begin recording the information!”

Leylin continuously looked at the spell book containing the model of Umbra’s Hand. Only after quickly flipping through it once and hearing the notification from the A.I Chip that it had fully recorded the content, did he put the book down.

“The construction of a spell model is the foundation for a Magus to cast spells. This process includes a series of complex variation as well as the precise construction of the spell model itself. To learn a spell, 3 months is needed at the very least!”

As he learned of the difficulty for a Magus to cast spells, Leylin sighed. Without the A.I Chip, he could only learn to cast spells after countless attempts and failures.

[The recording of data is finished, beginning analysis!] The A.I Chip’s voice sounded.

“How long will it take?”

[Estimated time taken: 106 Hours 32 Minutes!]

“106 Hours 32 Minutes! That is the equivalent of four to five days, this speed is extremely fast!” Leylin nodded his head.

He stood up, patted his body, and placed the two spell books away neatly.

He then walked to one side of his dorm. Originally, this section was utilized for reception or other uses but Leylin changed it into a mini experiment lab for potion brewing.

Although it was rather dangerous to experiment here, with the A.I Chip

he could guarantee that nothing would go wrong.

“I’m going on a mission in a few months’ time! I better focus on brewing a few potions as preventive measures for sudden events!”

Leylin lit a candle and begun his potion brewing.

The education system in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was rather loose. From what Leylin saw, it was most similar to the ancient times of one teacher to one student.

The academy was only providing land and the most basic of services. As for everything else, like acquiring advanced information, one had to learn from a professor, the chances of which were very slim.

Moreover, there weren’t any compulsory missions that one must take on. As long as a person could pay the school fees and did not meet a bad professor, one could normally stay here for 5 years!

Of course, when there was no motivation, one’s power would lessen as they did not seek to improve. At least in Leylin’s case, he had not come across such a wonderful thing like receiving a few pieces of Magic Crystals each month for free.

To obtain Magic Crystals, one could only take up a mission and go outside of the academy using their life to fight for them!

The world of Magus has always upheld the principles of fair trade.

In the following dozen days or so, Leylin devoted his time to analyzing the spell models and purchasing items like grains and nutrients for the mission he was going to take up.

One afternoon, Leylin came to the Spell Experimenting Area.

“The Spell Experimenting Area is a place that the academy has specially set up for acolytes and Magi to test the prowess of their spells. After all, various spells have immense might and there is also the problem of radiation. If the experiments are not managed properly the academy will be blown to bits!”

The Spell Experimenting Area was located on the left-most of the

academy, a remote area.

The surrounding white marble rock walls were stacked neatly and seemed to be extremely sturdy.

Various runes were written on these walls, two of which Leylin recognized. One was for the isolation of radiation contamination, and the other was for reinforcing the walls.

“Are you going to test your spells?” Leylin walked to a counter where a big, bald guy smiled jovially at him asking.

“Yes, I would like to. Are there any places for me to do so?”

“We have two large areas designated for the acolytes and Magi. You are only allowed to enter the area for acolytes and, within that area, space is divided into shared and single rooms. Shared rooms mean experimenting with your spells alongside another person. There might be interruptions caused by this but, it is inexpensive. As for single rooms, the fees are much more costly!”

“What are the rates for a single room?” Leylin asked.

The baldy’s eyes shone since it was obvious that there was a promising client here, “Three hours for 1 Magic Crystal. Our single rooms even have specialised measuring devices which can calculate and report the might of your spells. Furthermore, we have..... It’s absolutely worth it!”

“Give me one!” Leylin handed over a Magic Crystal to the big guy.

“Alright! Please hold on!” The big guy registered him quickly and handed back a black crystal-like item.

“This is your room card! Number 32!”

Leylin nodded his head and entered the Spell Experimenting Area.

On both sides, the runes on the white marbles glowed with a sparkling light. Some of the rooms obviously had occupants, but there were no sounds coming out from them and only the sound of Leylin’s footsteps could be heard the corridor.

“As expected! The noise isolation is really effective!”

Leylin nodded his head and, after locating his own room, swiped the black crystal on a black platform right outside the door!

Ka-cha! The door opened and a mechanical female voice sounded, “Welcome! You have three hours; please notice the allocation.....”

The interior of the room was huge! The area was similar in size to a basketball court from Leylin’s previous life.

In the middle were a few human shaped targets wearing leather armour, metal armour and fur.

To the far right, there was a screen on the wall and below it was the instructions on how to operate it.

– A Magus can attack a target with a spell, and the screen will automatically record the power of the spell. –

“The facilities here are very advanced and seem to have an intelligence of their own. However, it’s a pity that it is formed by magic, a different route from what my previous world took!” Leylin exclaimed silently.

“Let’s try with a physical attack first!”

Leylin’s muscles on his right arm bulged as he walked to the front of a white coloured target wearing leather armour.

Bang ! Leylin moved and, with a low voice, he shouted and punched the middle of the leather armour, leaving a faint trace of an impression.

The screen on the right flickered, and a few words appeared.

“Classification: Physical Attack. Degree of power: 2. Damage to target: Minimal.”

“It seems like these targets aren’t made of common materials!” Leylin muttered to himself.

“Degree of power” is the official standard that Magi use to measure the extent of their might. A single unit, as a standard, is equivalent to the energy that can be completely released by 1 gram of Magic Crystal.

“This method of measurement isn’t bad. A.I Chip, in the future you can

increase the content regarding this area!”

[Recording is done, defragmenting in process!] The A.I Chip’s voice sounded.

“Ha!” Leylin pulled out the cross blade hanging on his waist and brought about a strong gale as he viciously cut down.

Qiang! A gap split opened on the leather armour revealing the white coloured wound beneath.

“Classification: Physical Attack. Degree of power: 3. Damage to target: Slight.”

Seeing the screen, Leylin nodded his head, “I used all my might to cut down with the cross blade earlier but it only gave this kind of damage to the target! It seems like I can put my mind at ease and learn magic!”

“A.I Chip, transmit the 2 spell models over!” After this period of continuous research, the A.I Chip had already analysed the 2 spells completely. The last step was to transmit the information into Leylin’s hippocampus which would then enable him to grasp these two Rank 0 spells immediately.

[Editor Note: Hippocampus(simplified) - Memory recall area in the brain]

[Beep! Transmitting in progress!] With the A.I Chip’s mechanical voice replying, Leylin felt a lot of memories regarding the techniques and procedures of casting these 2 spells surfacing in his mind.

Every step felt extremely familiar. It was as if they were personally practiced by him countless of times.

“Bring out the data of these 2 Rank 0 spells!”

“Acidic Aqua Shot: Rank 0 spell. Casting time: 3 seconds. Effective distance: 7 Metres. Consumption: 2 Spiritual Force, 2 Magic Power”

“Umbra’s Hand: Rank 0 spell. Casting time: 4 seconds. Effective distance: 10 Metres. Consumption: 2 Spiritual Force, 2 Magic Power”

“Magic Power is the amount of energy particles that are stored within

the body. It is limited by the upper limits of the Spiritual Force!”

To cast a spell, one does not only need to use their Spiritual Force as a primer but must also understand that the Magic Power within their body will be consumed as well.

Leylin suppressed his excited emotions, “A.I Chip, Record in detail my spell casting process !”

“Pandora - Graygonger!”

With the Byron language’s incantation sounding from Leylin, a ball of dark green liquid suddenly appeared at the upper area of his right hand. White bubbles continuously frothed outside of it.

“Let’s go!” Leylin flung the acidic ball in his hand and the green liquid streaked across in an arc, landing on a target wearing leather armour.

Sssii! Sssii!

The corrosion of the physical target sounded nonstop as it continuously dissolved while emitting a huge amount of white smoke. At the same time, an odor that pricks at the sense of smell wafted in all directions.

After a few seconds, the human target had been corroded, leaving only a pair of white legs behind.

“A.I Chip, estimate the degree of power!”

[Beep! Degree of power: 5]

Leylin turned to look at the screen at the right. At this moment, the words on the screen changed and a new record was shown.

“Classification: Magical Corrosive Attack. Degree of power: 5. Damage to target: Severe.”

“En! It seems like the A.I Chip and this screen have the same estimated values so I won’t need to come here in future. I should be able to estimate the degree of power in my spells with the A.I Chip.”

Leylin nodded his head and begin experimenting with another spell.

“Umbra’s Hand!”

Following Leylin's incantation, a black coloured hand suddenly appeared under a target which wore steel armour. It grabbed the target's throat forcefully and, with a crashing sound, the target's head fell onto the ground.

"Classification: Energy Attack. Degree of power: 4. Damage to target: Severe."

Chapter 31: Patrolling Mission

Seeing the evaluation on the screen, Leylin began to compare the merits and drawbacks of the two spells.

“Although the might of Acidic Aqua Shot is greater, enemies can dodge it easily. It also requires constant fine-tuning with Spiritual Force. As for Umbra’s Hand, it is a little weaker, but it’s extremely covert and is best used for a sneak attack!”

“These two spells have been chosen by me with utmost care. Not only do they satisfy my Dark elemental affinity, materials are not needed to cast them either, which is extremely convenient!”

Leylin’s eyes suddenly flashed, “A.I Chip, is it possible to optimise these two spells?”

[Beep! Affirmative! Consumption for optimisation: 19 Spiritual Force points, proceed or not?]

“Definitely not! I don’t want my Spiritual Force to be exhausted that quickly! Why does it require so much?” Leylin’s expression was a little unsightly.

[Optimising Acidic Aqua Shot requires 9 Spiritual Force points. Requires advanced information: Farl’s comprehensive collection of spells, Theory of missiles.....]

[Optimising Umbra’s Hand requires 10 Spiritual Force points. Requires advanced information: Detailed Evocation Studies, Dark Energy Analysis.....]

“Alright, it seems like there is no hope for now!”

Leylin closed the screen, “Besides, a simple spell already requires 2 points of Spiritual Force. I can barely use it a few times at present!”

“A.I Chip, bring out my current stats and show it in a concrete manner!”

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte. Strength: 2.2, Agility: 2.4, Vitality: 2.7, Spiritual Force: 0.1(4.1), Magical Power: 0(4) - Magical Power is in

synchronisation with Spiritual Force. Status: Healthy]

[Skills: Cross Blade Technique, Potioneering]

[Spells: Acidic Aqua Shot: Rank 0 spell. Casting time: 3 seconds. Effective distance: 7 Metres. Consumption: 2 Spiritual Force, 2 Magic Power]

[Umbra's Hand: Rank 0 spell. Casting time: 4 seconds. Effective distance: 10 Metres. Consumption: 2 Spiritual Force, 2 Magic Power]

At Leylin's command, a 3D image of himself was projected, with various information appearing alongside him.

"It is much clearer this way! The two spells fully consumed my Spiritual Force and Magical Power earlier, no wonder I feel a little dizzy now!" Leylin rubbed his temples as they were hurting a little.

"With this constraint of Spiritual Force and Magical Power, learning more spells is not feasible. What's left is for me to prepare a few more potions! If only I had a Magic Artifact, my strength would definitely have a significant increase....."

In the academy, the Mission Area.

There were all sorts of acolytes gathered here, and most of them had gloomy expressions. Their bodies also reeked of blood and held traces of injuries.

Occasionally, a few grey-robed acolytes who radiated strong magical energy would carry large monsters on their backs, garnering the envy and attention of others.

In the centre of the Mission Area was a black coloured rock wall, where various missions were arranged.

Green-coloured words glowed against the black wall, and it looked a little eerie.

Among the many missions, some were written in blood red and gave off an ominous feeling. Most of the missions listed were dangerous, but the rewards were also better.

In the corner of the square, a few people stood around patiently as if they were waiting for someone.

“Leylin hasn’t arrived yet?”

Raynor crossed his arms in front of his chest, seemingly a little bored.

“It isn’t the designated time yet, what are you in a hurry for? Since he already agreed, he will definitely be here.” Kaliweir replied as he polished a black cleaver, the smooth blade stained with traces of blood.

“Leylin? Are you talking about that Potioneering acolyte, Leylin?” A green-haired girl’s eyes shone.

“It is said that his Potioneering talent is only second to Merlin. Furthermore, he has already begun to brew potions and earn a huge amount of money, why would he still want to join our team?”

“He originally came from the same area as us, so it’s only natural to join us for missions!” Raynor laughed.

“Then you guys must definitely introduce him to us later. If we are able to approach an acolyte who knows Potioneering, we might not need to risk our lives on missions in the future anymore!” A red-haired girl laughed heartily. Her body was extremely voluptuous.

Raynor’s eyes unconsciously scanned over this girl’s perky chest, and then he suddenly felt parched.

“My apologies! I’m late!”

Leylin wore leather armour with his robes on the outside, which looked a little bulky. A Cross Blade hung down on his waist, and a crossbow was slung on his back together with a large black sack.

“We have just arrived too!” Kaliweir sheathed his cleaver and smiled.

“It’s just us five?” Leylin looked at the group. He recognised Kaliweir and Raynor, but did not see Beirut and the rest.

“Beirut and the others are third-grade acolytes, but they have not advanced to Level 2 Acolyte yet. They only have a bit of resistance to magic spells, so the outside is too dangerous for them. This is also our first

time going out after the previous failure and I don't wish for any more casualties!"

Kaliweir explained.

Leylin suddenly understood. Although he was a third-grade acolyte, his talent was comparable to a fourth-grade acolyte with the A.I Chip's help, and he might even surpass them in learning spells.

Beirut and the others were only in the Level 1 Acolyte range. Bringing them out was no help at all, and they might even be a burden. Hence keeping them within the academy was also good for them. It was realistic, yet cruel.

"Come! Let me make the introductions!" Kaliweir smiled.

"The green haired girl is Lilisse, and the one beside is Neela. They are both apprentices under my mentor and advanced to Level 2 Acolytes two months ago....."

"Hello! Sir Leylin!" Neela's eyes shone and she took the initiative to approach Leylin.

"It is really lucky to be able to go on a mission with you this time!" Neela stuck out her chest and spoke coquettishly in a very nasal pitch.

Seeing this scene, Raynor looked elsewhere, his expression a little gloomy.

"I only have a little talent in Potioneering and I must even thank Mentor Kroft, it was him who....." Leylin rubbed his nose. He knew that he only needed to reveal a bit of desire and this beautiful girl would pounce into his arms. However, he had been concentrating on cultivation lately and had very little wants in this aspect.

Furthermore, after so many of his wild trysts in his previous world, to him, Neela was only a girl who was good looking.

"Alright, what are the contents of our mission?" Leylin took the initiative and asked, interrupting what Neela was going to say next.

"As this is our first time going on a mission together, I am preparing to

take on the simplest one: patrolling the academy's perimeters and cleaning up a few Red-Eyed Ravens, what do you all think?"

In fact, the four of them had discussed this before so Kaliweir was really only asking Leylin.

"Alright! My Rank 0 spells have not been fully grasped yet!" Leylin agreed.

This team of theirs was newly formed, so taking on a simple mission to improve their teamwork was within reason. From this, it could be seen that Kaliweir had matured a lot after Hank's death and his way of doing things was now better thought out.

"A.I Chip! Scan!" Leylin commanded silently.

[Beep! Raynor. Strength: 1.8, Agility: 1.9, Vitality: 2.5, Spiritual Force: 3.7. Status: Healthy]

[Lilisse. Strength: 1.9, Agility: 2.5, Vitality: 2.4, Spiritual Force: 4.3. Status: Healthy]

[Neela. Strength: 2.7, Agility: 3.4, Vitality: 2.9, Spiritual Force: 4.6. Status: Healthy]

"Ever since the processing capability of the A.I Chip increased, its perceptive ability has also increased. Not including the Magi, all the acolytes in the academy right now are unable to escape the readings of the A.I Chip."

Leylin thought silently. These readings must naturally prioritise not alarming the other party. As official Magi have a layer of force field around them constantly, the A.I Chip would definitely be discovered if it was to attempt to take readings of them.

However, as long as regular acolytes are within Leylin's scope, their every stat will be read by the A.I Chip.

"From this data, everyone has indeed advanced into Level 2 Acolyte. However, I never thought that Neela was the strongest of them. It seems like this girl has also practiced the Knight's breathing technique. Her body

and strength are not to be underestimated!”

These few people had just advanced, and even if they had bought spell models before, they might not be able to comprehend it. Furthermore, the models have to be constructed in the mind, so they were definitely unfamiliar with it. After all, Rank 0 spells are still very dangerous to a Level 2 Acolyte. Without complete control of them, there is a chance of failing and even causing a backlash!

Based on just their physical strengths, Neela could possibly defeat the three of them in one fell swoop if no one was to use any spells.

This Neela, who seemed to be infatuated with and wanted to approach him, was actually the strongest out of the team of four. It was likely that even Kaliweir did not know of this. The corners of Leylin’s lips arched into a smile.

To be in full control of Rank 0 spells, regular Level 2 Acolytes must practice for at least 3 months to half a year. However, for him, he will learn the spell in a flash once the A.I Chip has completely analysed the spell model and transmitted it to his hippocampus.

As for the might of any of the Rank 0 spells, they are not something the level of a Knight can resist. Perhaps Grand Knights have a slight chance at that.

Obviously, Neela’s data was only at the level of a Knight. Even if she had a secret technique, Leylin was not the slightest bit afraid.

While Leylin had been taking the readings, Kaliweir had already run to the counter and accepted the patrolling mission.

After the discussion with everyone, they set off and left the academy.

Leylin’s eyes could not help but squint as the piercing sunlight shone down.

“Come to think of it, I have already stayed underground for over a year. Now that I have come out, it does seem a bit like a thousand-year-old corpse rising from the ground again.

Leylin used his hands to block the sunlight. His snow white hands were a sickly pale colour, like an ill person who lost too much blood. It was due to him staying underground the whole time and spending very little time basking in the sunlight reflected from the mosses in the gardens.

Of course, most acolytes from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy have this problem.

In any case, as long as their strength increased and they used their Spiritual Force, raising a point of two of their Vitality was not a problem at all. Therefore, they did not need to go out everyday to bask in the sunlight.

“Let’s go!” Kaliweir took the lead.

Looking at the huge graveyard behind them and the two statues of the protectors, Leylin turned his head and followed the rest of the team.

“We are going to patrol the southwest area of the academy, where quite a few Red-Eyed Ravens have been showing up recently. We need to clean up their numbers, as well as a few other living organisms. Of course, all of the materials that we acquire will belong to us. Moreover, everyone receives a remuneration of 3 Magic Crystals.”

After the five of them walked out of the graveyard, Kaliweir picked a spot and took out a huge map and spoke as they crowded around.

On the faint yellow parchment paper, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was located in the centre and occupied about ten percent of the total area.

There were a few simple routes around it, and there were descriptions of the places written in black colour. A few dangerous places were also marked in red with warning signs.

Chapter 32: Red-Eyed Ravens

“Red-Eyed Ravens? We met with some when we first arrived at the academy but they were easily killed off by Professor Dorotte. He used a spell that seemed similar to Acidic Aqua Shot.” Leylin stroked his chin and recalled the scene of when he first entered the academy.

“We had better hurry there and begin our patrolling. This mission requires us to bring back the right claws of 10 Red-Eyed Ravens as evidence of completing the mission.....Do you guys have any other questions?”

Kaliweir ended with a question, displaying the bearings of a leader. After he saw Leylin and the others shake their heads, he continued and said: “Since we are teammates, let us not hide anything from each other. Each of us should report our general strengths so the others can have a better understanding! I’ll go first!”

“I’m Kaliweir, I have a Knight-level constitution and know a secret technique. I also know a Rank O spell!”

“Kaliweir, I never thought that you’d have learned a spell already! It seems like you’re ahead of me..... I’m Neela, I have Knight-level physical qualities and a secret technique. I am still learning the Rank O spell “Weary Hand” but I’m unable to use it yet!” While saying this, Neela looked at Kaliweir with a little surprise.

“I’m Lillisse, I.....I am still training to be a Knight, but my instructor says my dart-throwing isn’t bad. I don’t know any secret techniques as of yet!” Lillisse said shyly.

“Raynor, Preparatory Knight. I don’t know any spells but my archery skills aren’t bad!” He never thought that Kaliweir and Neela would have already begun to learn spells and was a little embarrassed. Patting the wooden bow on his back, he continued, “Don’t worry, I will not be a burden to all of you!”

“Leylin, Preparatory Knight. Right now I have learnt a spell!” Leylin rubbed his own nose.

“Even you have learnt a spell.....Oh! I’m sorry!” Raynor said a little disconcertingly. He originally came together with Leylin so he knew that Leylin’s aptitude was only a third grade acolyte. Never did he think that Leylin’s accomplishments would already exceed his aptitude as a fourth grade acolyte.

“No worries!” Leylin shook his head and indicated that he did not mind it.

In fact, Raynor’s meditation efficacy was much faster than Leylin’s. It was simply that he did not have enough Magic Crystals to exchange for information and other precious resources. Hence, he was gradually losing out to Leylin.

“You are indeed worthy of being called ‘Sir Leylin’! You know what outsiders are calling you now?” Neela said in admiration.

“Oh? I don’t mind hearing about how others are evaluating me!”

“A Potioneering genius who is seen once every fifty years! If you did not already have a mentor, the other Potioneering professors would have invited you to be their apprentice!” Neela’s pitch was very high and sparks almost seemed to jump out of her eyes.

Seeing Neela’s fiery gaze, as well as the expressions of Lillise and the others, Leylin smiled bitterly.

To sell his potions faster, he could not help but take on the role of a Potioneering-genius acolyte. Fortunately, he had his senior Merlin to take the brunt of the attention off him. If not for this, the attention given to him would be much greater.

“Oh right! Leylin, you should have enough resources if you always sell potions right? Why would you still need to come out?”

Raynor asked softly.

“About this? I felt bored being cooped up in the academy. Besides, I have just learnt a spell so I need to familiarise myself with it!”

Leylin’s main purpose was to gain more experience and make

preparations for travelling out alone to look for a black market in the future. However, such a thing could not be mentioned.

“Alright! Let the gossip end here! Our destination is not far away but it will take some trouble to get there! If we don’t move out soon, the sky will turn dark!”

Kaliweir pat his hands, picked up his cleaver and led the party.

“Let’s go!” Leylin followed behind.

“I want to walk with you!” Neela walked by Leylin’s side, not masking her intentions in the slightest.

Lilisse followed next, with Raynor at the back.

“Be careful, the area near the school is vacant land, but now that we have entered the forest, there will be a lot more danger!” Kaliweir continued walking as he reminded the party.

Leylin did not bother with Neela who was beside him. Instead, he paid more attention to his surroundings while also maximising the A.I Chip’s detection range.

This was his first time coming into contact with the dangerous world outside of the academy so he could not help but be more alert.

Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was built in the depths of a black forest and there was a forsaken graveyard on top of the school. There were only small shrubberies and short trees around the school so the danger was not that great. However, after entering the forest, the countless trees acted as natural camouflage. It had always been the hunting ground of many predators. Leylin could still recall that when they first arrived here, they met with a sneak attack.

[Alert! Alert! An unknown creature is approaching. Threat to the Host’s body: Mild!]

As the A.I Chip’s voice sounded, light blue lines formed an image in Leylin’s vision. From the projection, Leylin could very clearly see a red line snaking its way to them.

“Whoosh!”

A black shadow suddenly leapt out from the grass and viciously bit at Kaliweir’s neck.

Kaliweir’s expression did not change as the black cleaver in his hands swung down, knocking the black shadow away.

The black shadow fell on the ground and revealed its true appearance. It was a snake that was one metre in length, with faint traces of blood on its body and only one eye on its triangular head.

“This is an Iron Thread One-Eyed Snake, be careful of its poison!” Neela warned.

Right at this moment, Lilisse, who was behind them, suddenly struck and three throwing knives were launched towards the beast.

The Iron Thread One-Eyed Snake’s body coiled to avoid two of the blades but the last one slashed at it as it passed, leaving a gash.

“Heh!” Suddenly, Kaliweir ran forward and swung his black cleaver down on the snake’s head. With a cold flash, the head of the snake was cut off instantly!

The snake, which had lost its head, coiled in a circle, still bleeding profusely.

“Ah!” Lilisse was startled.

“It’s already dead. This is just a natural reaction for the body. Haven’t you learned about neurology?” Neela harrumphed.

“Only the poison sac and the skin of this Iron Thread One-Eyed Snake is useful. Whoever wants to collect the materials better hurry and do so now. The blood will attract many other living organisms here!” Kaliweir slowly spoke while putting away his cleaver.

“I will do it!” Raynor stepped forward and, after a short while, the five of them continued on their journey.

“A.I Chip! Was the information from earlier recorded?”

[Beep! The recording is done! Iron Thread One-Eyed Snake, Snake type. Strength: 1.1, Agility: 2.1, Vitality: 1.6. The blood sample has been collected and the composition of muscle has been recorded!]

The A.I Chip's feedback was timely. Leylin nodded his head and hastened his footsteps.

Ten-odd days later, inside the black forest.

A Red-Eyed Raven blinked its alert eyes and perched on a branch as it constantly ruffled its feathers.

Whoosh! Suddenly, a white arrow was shot.

"Caw!" the Raven flapped its wings to move away. While it was evading, there were another three flashes of white light, belonging to the throwing knives that were shooting towards it.

Dodging in an elegant arc, the Red-Eyed Raven avoided the knives and landed in an open space.

"Kill!" A shadow hopped out from some shrubbery, two hands grasping a cleaver, and hacked towards the Red-Eyed Raven. It seemed like the arrow and the throwing knives earlier had all been there to force the Red-Eyed Raven to the ground.

A black cleaver brought about a gale as it hacked at the Red-Eyed Raven.

"Caw Caw!" The Red-Eyed Raven cawed loudly, letting off an unpleasant noise.

There was a flash of human-like resentment in the raven's eyes and a pair of black claws met with the cleaver.

Clang!

Although the Red-Eyed Raven was a little larger than the average raven, it was only about the same size as a chicken. It had unexpectedly used its black claws to push back the Knight wielding the black cleaver.

"Caw!" The Red-Eyed Raven cawed again, and a few black feathers drifted down from its body.

Taking advantage of the retreating Knight, the Red-Eyed Raven actually went forward and clawed at the Knight's face with its sharp claws!

"Pandora - Greygonger!"

A hurried and quick incantation sounded and a ball of green liquid flew out suddenly, hitting the Red-Eyed Raven squarely on its body.

Psshhh! White mist rose continuously, and the cries of a Red-Eyed Raven sounded.

A few seconds later, the screams from the Raven completely vanished, and all that was left was a ditch. Lying inside were a few feathers which did not have enough time to corrode.

"Are you alright, Kaliweir?!"

The shrubbery shook and a few figures made their way through it.

Kaliweir shook his head, "No worries! Although the Red-Eyed Raven has the strength of a Knight and can even fly, it is still not an opponent for us humans who wield weapons!"

Looking at the person in the middle, "Leylin! The timing of the Acidic Aqua Shot earlier was good!"

"It was all due to everybody's teamwork!" Leylin smiled.

Kaliweir then walked to the large ditch, used a branch to brush away the feathers, and picked up 2 black claws from inside.

The side of the black claws was extremely sharp. They released a chilling luster as if reflecting the difficulty of dealing with its original owner.

"Although the might of the Acidic Aqua Shot is great, it also corroded the Red-Eyed Raven greatly. Apart from its hard claws, there is nothing left....." Kaliweir said with a tinge of regret.

"Hmph! If not for Leylin, you guys might have paid some kind of price to kill the Red-Eyed Raven!" Neela harrumphed at the side, seemingly displeased.

"That's true!" Kaliweir sheathed his cleaver. Right now he had matured a

lot and knew that Neela was rather spiteful, so he was not angry at all.

“With this Red-Eyed Raven, we have gathered enough materials. Should we head back to the school to complete the mission?”

Seeing that Raynor and the rest were looking tired, Kaliweir asked.

“Naturally, we have to go back! The forest is too dangerous. We couldn’t even have a good sleep during the night!” Neela said immediately.

Lilisse and Raynor hurriedly nodded their heads too.

As for Leylin, he also felt a little exhausted as the forest had been riddled with danger. Even though he had the A.I Chip to warn him, he was still in a heightened state of anxiety for a prolonged period. His mind felt extremely weary as well, and right now he was beginning to miss the hot water and bed in the academy.

“Alright! Then let us go back first!”

Kaliweir was a little regretful as he carefully put away the claw of the Red-Eyed Raven, “What a pity! With our abilities, we could definitely kill more of the Red-Eyed Ravens. They are worth much more money than the Iron Thread One-Eyed Snake from before.....”

“There is no end to earning Magic Crystals but right now, our team, as a whole, is completely exhausted and we have reached a dangerous state. If we do not hurry back to the academy, I’m afraid that we will make mistakes during our next hunt, which may even result in death!”

Leylin’s voice was cold and distinct. He was a person who kept his cool at all times, and he wouldn’t lose his bearings over a little profit dangling before him.

“Alright! Then let us go back!”

Kaliweir only hesitated a little and then nodded his head in agreement.

Hearing Kaliweir’s words, the expressions of the other four turned much better. Even Neela, who was feeling spiteful, also loosened up and smiled brightly.

The party packed up quickly and started on the trip home.

Chapter 33: Violent Hilly Bear

The chirping of insects could be heard in the quiet forest from time to time, and the lush branches and leaves of the trees covered the sun completely. Sunrays occasionally shone through the gaps like beams of light.

“Caw Caw!” Familiar sounding cries could be heard ahead.

Kaliweir, who was leading at the forefront, furrowed his brows, “Why are there so many Red-Eyed Ravens!? These creatures are very aggressive towards humans! If we do not clean their numbers up in time, they will attract more of their kind which will be extremely troublesome!”

“What now? Should we take a detour?” Raynor asked.

“I’m afraid that might not work, they have already discovered us!” Leylin looked at the image in the A.I Chip and said without looking back.

The sound of wings flapping gradually got closer. Kaliweir laughed, “Since they have voluntarily come to look for us, we shouldn’t hesitate to welcome them!”

The expressions of the others were at ease. After this period of polishing their teamwork, they all have a set of strategies that were customised to deal with the Red-Eyed Ravens.

“Not good! There are 2 of them!” Leylin looked at the screen and his expression changed suddenly.

Kaliweir was startled. As per Leylin’s warning, there was indeed another black shadow behind the first Red-Eyed Raven that flew over, and its size seemed to be bigger than others of its kind.

“We’re in trouble!” Kaliweir’s brows furrowed, “Leylin and Neela, you two deal with the one in front! As for the other one, leave it to us three!”

“Prepare well!” Leylin said to Neela behind him, and drew the crossbow that was slung on his back.

“Measuring wind power and humidity! Adjusting trajectory.....”

Whoosh! A black line streaked across the sky and pierced through the Red-Eyed Raven's body, bringing along a few feathers with it.

"Caw!" The Red-Eyed Raven at the front let out an angry cry and flew towards Leylin.

It actually seemed like it did not sustain any injuries.

"Let's lure it away!" Leylin's expression did not change, and he put down the crossbow that was in his hands.

Thanks to the A.I Chip, he was very clear that the arrow earlier did hit the Red-Eyed Raven, but the vitality of these crows was rather high, being almost similar to a human Knight. Their feathers were extremely hard too; hence, it did not receive much damage.

The weapons of regular humans do not pose much threat to the creatures of the Magus World.

Seeing Leylin and Neela luring a Red-Eyed Raven away, Kaliweir made up his mind. He shouted loudly, "Raynor and Lilisse, stall the other Red-Eyed Raven that is behind and give me time to prepare my spell."

Raynor and Lilisse looked at each other, and then dashed towards the Red-Eyed Raven at the back.

As Raynor ran, he grabbed the bow on his back and shot towards the sky. A few throwing knives accompanied the arrow.

"Caw Caw!" The huge Red-Eyed Raven flapped its black wings, and slapped the arrow and knives down.

"It actually used its bare wings to knocked the arrow away!" Raynor's face turned pale and his footsteps halted.

However, the Red-Eyed Raven that was significantly larger than its counterpart had already swooped down and its huge claws cut into Raynor's shoulders, leaving a gash.

Raynor was pinned to the ground by the Red-Eyed Raven.

"Save.....Save me!" Raynor shouted and pleaded.

Bang!! Just as the Red-Eyed Raven was about to peck down, a bright light flashed. Lillisse raised a huge sword that was even larger than her and swatted the Red-Eyed Raven away.

“Bam!” An iron wire that was made into a net was thrown in front of Raynor.

“I’ll stall it, hurry and take the chance to throw the net!” Lillisse, who was usually quiet and a little shy, now seemed to be a completely different person.

“Okay!” Raynor looked at Kaliweir, who was still preparing the cast his spell, and picked up the net.

Lillisse had obviously trained with swordplay before, and the huge steel sword brandished in her hands turned into a silver flash as she knocked the Red-Eyed Raven away to the side.

“Ha!” With a beautiful sweep, Lillisse knocked the Red-Eyed Raven down onto the floor, making mud and grit splatter everywhere.

“A good chance!” Raynor’s eyes flashed, and the sharp pain transmitting through his shoulder made his eyes a little bloodshot as he spread the steel wire net and trapped the Red-Eyed Raven within it.

“Caw Caw!” The Red-Eyed Raven continuously thrashed inside, and it seemed as though it would break free from the steel wire net at any moment.

“Kaliweir, hurry!” The Red-Eyed Raven’s feathers are too thick, I can’t deal much damage to it!”

Lillisse shouted anxiously.

“Thank you for your efforts!” At this moment, Kaliweir finally finished his spell, and a dark red coloured fireball was blazing in his hands.

“Hurry and move!” After Kaliweir shouted, Lillisse and Raynor hurriedly scattered.

“Let’s go! Negative Energy Fireball!” With a fling of Kaliweir’s hands, the dark red fireball streaked across with a booming sound until it landed

perfectly on the Red-Eyed Raven's body.

Boom! A huge sound reverberated continuously in all directions, along with a surging heat wave.

The intense wind from the explosion also burned a huge crater in the ground, and the surrounding plants and shrubbery did not escape from it either.

"Nice one!" Raynor had run a little too slowly and was swept onto the ground by the wind behind him. His clothes were stained with mud. However, when he looked at the Red-Eyed Raven, he was indescribably happy.

"Haah....." Kaliweir panted too, "This Negative Energy Fireball takes too long to cast and I need someone to help me stall the enemy. However, its might is extremely great!"

Lilisse straightened her fringe. As she looked towards the direction that Leylin and Neela had run in, there was an obvious tinge of worry in her eyes, "I wonder how they are doing now?"

"Don't worry! Leylin and Neela are very strong, and we also managed to deal with the bigger one ourselves....." Kaliweir comforted her. This was the first mission that he had taken in a year, and he, too, wanted the perfect ending.

"We're alright!" Just as Kaliweir was speaking, both Leylin and Neela walked out from a thicket of bushes.

A few black feathers clung to their bodies, but they did not seem to have sustained any injuries.

"Where is the other one?"

"Over here!" Leylin raised the black claws in his hands, and then looked at the huge pit. "Wow this fellow. I reckon that had at least 6 degrees of power, it seems like Kaliweir is pursuing lethal spells.

"Since everyone is okay, let us hurry back, I have a bad feeling about this!" Kaliweir's face darkened, "The monsters lurking around the school

these days seem to be a little too much!”

“I agree, were the academy missions before this dangerous?” Leylin asked.

“That’s not right! Even if we accepted a patrolling mission like this, we needed at least 1 month to find 10 Red-Eyed Ravens. However, we have exceeded that amount in just 10 days!” Neela explained beside him.

“After we return, let us report this situation, I feel there’s something amiss!” Lilisse said suddenly.

“If there are any problems it’ll be for the Magi to solve! We had better leave here as soon as possible, I don’t feel safe out here!” Raynor added.

“Nicely said! Let us hurry!” Kaliweir said as he threw the broken iron wire net aside and picked up a black claw.

As everyone did not have any objections, the team hurried back.

“Why would these 2 Red-Eyed Ravens obstruct us on our return trip back to the academy? Could it just be a coincidence?” Leylin suddenly felt uneasy and hastened his footsteps.

The rest of them seemed to have the same ominous feeling, and the team hurried along.

“Do you think those 2 Red-Eyed Ravens earlier were guarding some treasures? You know, ravens have a habit of collecting shiny items!”

Neela, who was at the back of the group, saw the gloomy expressions on everyone and said half-jokingly.

“Those are normal ravens. Although the Red-Eyed Ravens also have raven in their name, their bloodlines are closer to that of a Bramble Thorny Bird. Therefore, they don’t have the habit of searching for treasures, but instead have an acute sense for a few special plants. In fact, Magi often raise Bramble Thorny Birds too, to use them to search for those special plants!” Leylin replied, not turning back.

“How do you know that?” Raynor was obviously not convinced.

“Bramble Thorny Bird’s origins and how to raise them. It’s on the level 3

bookshelf in the library, I read it recently.” Leylin replied blandly.

“Oh! Leylin! You’re so awesome!” Sparks could be seen in Neela’s eyes again.

Raynor turned away.

“Eh?” Leylin took a sniff and suddenly smelled a very fragrant scent.

“Stop! Did you guys smell anything?” Leylin hurriedly halted.

The group stopped. “Smell what?” Kaliweir’s expression tightened, and he gripped the cleaver in his hands.

“I seem to have smelled a very fragrant scent!” Leylin explained.

“Fragrance? There are only odours that make people want to vomit in this forest! And now it is getting more serious!” Raynor interrupted.

“I actually smelled a whiff of Jasmine Flowers mixed with Black-Oiled Roses!” Lilisse wrinkled her nose.

“Everyone be careful! There is the stench of a wild beast!” Shiing! Kaliweir unsheathed his cleaver. This situation was obviously strange. Leylin also placed his hands into his waist pouch.

Hu! A gust of wind blew over. It carried a fishy stench that stung the nose.

Grooarr!!! The roar of a ruthless beast sounded.

The plants in the surrounding black forest also bent from the pressure caused by the beast’s roar.

Kaliweir’s face changed greatly, “Be careful, it’s a huge one!”

Boom Boom! The heavy steps rang. Leylin and the rest saw the appearance of the creature.

It was a huge black bear and its skull was split open, as if exposing its brain. There was also a ‘V’-shaped, white mark on its chest, like a lightning scar.

“Be careful! It’s the Violent Hilly Bear; each one is comparable to a Level 3 Acolyte! Last time, it was this fellow that we met!”

Kaliweir's pupils shrank to the size of a pin, "Be careful of its roaring attack. It was this attack that killed Hank previously!"

"Damn it! Let's disperse and run!" Raynor's face turned pale and he suddenly turned around and scooted off.

"This coward!" Neela fumed and her face turned red. The Violent Hilly Bear increased its speed because of Raynor's sudden escape.

"There is no choice left! This exceeds our capabilities, so let's scatter and run. Let's hope to meet each other back in the academy!"

Kaliweir smiled bitterly and made his decision.

Chapter 34: A Knight's Breakthrough

After Kaliweir finished speaking, he took out a black powder-like substance from his robes and sprinkled it onto his legs. He suddenly appeared taller and upon closer inspection, it seemed that not only had his height increased, but there were also tufts of black fur growing out of the bottom of his shoes.

With this black fur, Kaliweir's speed increased tremendously and he disappeared from the forest in the span of a few steps, with a speed faster than Raynor's.

"The seed from a blade of Nimble Grass? It seems like Kaliweir used it to protect his life, but the aftereffects of this seed are not small!"

Leylin muttered, looking towards the two girls at his side, "It is a little embarrassing to say this, but we had still better split up!"

"Since we chose to come out here and take such risks, we should naturally be prepared to lose our lives! To be honest, the fact that you were able to stay behind those two guys has already shocked us !"

Neela said as she took out a green potion in a test tube and threw it on the floor. A green-coloured hurricane swept up and enshrouded Neela and Lilisse within its centre.

"See you at the academy!" Enveloped in a whirlwind of green, the two girls disappeared from Leylin's vision.

"Everyone has a trump card, huh?" Leylin smiled, moving his feet and disappearing from the forest.

In a flash, the party of five began to split up, with everyone using their own methods to escape from the scene.

Leylin's footsteps never faltered, and the trees on either side of him disappeared into the distance as he sped ahead.

"The attack power of the Violent Hilly Bear is extremely high, while its speed is just average. In the party of five, Kaliweir used the Nimble Grass, while Neela and Lilisse used a speed-enhancing potion. As for me, I have

the strength of a Knight, and therefore my speed is pretty good. However, Raynor, the first to run, has the slowest speed amongst the five of us and is also in the greatest danger. If he did not prepare any trump cards, it is highly likely for him to die here.”

“I should be able to escape from this Violent Hilly Bear’s hunting grounds with Raynor as a decoy, so I had better not use this potion just yet!”

As a Potions Master, Leylin was still rather rich despite not being able to sell his goods in bulk. Naturally, he had prepared several trump cards that could protect his life, without which he would not have the confidence to come outside to train.

Every step he took was perfect, his every move and action seemed to blend in with the forest and he did not receive any obstructions from any branches or vines, his actions as smooth as flowing water. His speed was actually almost the same as Kaliweir who had used the Nimble Grass.

“Groarr!” A vicious roar sounded.

Suddenly, a black figure appeared in front of Leylin, and with it came a huge bear paw.

“Impossible! How could it have made a detour to be in front of me? Was Raynor unable to draw it away?”

Greatly startled, Leylin’s body reacted, his conditioned reflexes causing him to take out his cross blade and begin slashing in front of him. .

Clang! Leylin hurriedly used the huge recoil travelling through the cross blade to turn his body around and escape the attack range of the bear’s paw. He did not have a good grip on the cross blade and as a result, it flew out of his hands.

Bang!

At this moment, Leylin did not hesitate to throw a fire red potion at the Violent Hilly Bear.

The moment the test tube exploded, a scorching red flame suddenly

engulfed the Violent Hilly Bear.

Leylin did not stay to watch the scene. Instead, he immediately turned around and ran.

“The explosive potion’s might may be great, comparable to an average Rank 0 spells, however, it still lacks the power to penetrate the Violent Hilly Bear’s thick hide.

“Groarr!” The Violent Hilly Bear’s roar sounded from behind, and it seemed to be getting closer to Leylin.

Leylin turned around to look, and his eyes almost popped out, “This is illogical!”

He saw that the Violent Hilly Bear’s head was a little charred, but the rest of the body remained undamaged. The explosive potion seemed to do nothing else apart from further enraging the Violent Hilly Bear.

The Violent Hilly Bear’s massively oversized body seemed to be as light as a feather and did not hinder its speed in the slightest, allowing it to tail behind Leylin.

“A.I Chip! Take readings!”

Leylin gave a command, but the A.I Chip did not reply even after half a day and only a faint static noise could be heard.

“A.I Chip! A.I Chip!” Leylin called out again, but it was to no avail.

“Damn it, just what exactly is happening?”

Leylin’s face distorted in frustration. The A.I Chip was his greatest trump card in this world. Suddenly losing it had turned him a little crazy.

Thwack! The Violent Hilly Bear caught up to Leylin once again, and it swatted with his massive paws as if it was swatting at a mosquito.

“Umbra’s Hand!” Leylin hurriedly chanted and a black coloured hand rose from the Violent Hilly Bear’s shadow, firmly holding on to the bear’s paw.

The huge bear roared nonstop, but was unable to escape from the

Umbra's Hand.

Seizing this opportunity, Leylin hurriedly ran off. "The Umbra's Hand's effect will only last for a few seconds! I must hurry!"

Leylin fled miserably.

"Damn it!" Leylin grumbled yet again, "What on earth is going on? This Violent Hilly Bear is stronger than my expectations, and it has such a swift speed too!"

In the black forest, the grass and shrubbery blew in the strong wind and the occasional insect cry could be heard from time to time.

"At last, I have finally escaped for now!" Leylin ran for a dozen-odd minutes before he dared to turn back and look. The dark forest resembled the mouth of a huge beast, seemingly wanting to swallow him whole.

"Caw! Caw!" Just when Leylin had finally caught his breath, the abominable sound of ravens could be heard in the sky.

Leylin raised his head and looked. There were ravens that were much larger than the Red-Eyed Ravens from earlier. Furthermore, there were three of them! Once they spotted Leylin, they immediately swooped down towards him.

"My cross blade has already been lost and my Spiritual Force and Magical Power are almost drained too. Am I going to die here today?"

An ominous premonition rose in Leylin's heart.

A black talon came slashing at him, and Leylin hurriedly attempted to dodge it. In spite of his attempts, the claw of the raven etched three gashes into his back.

The immense pain clouded Leylin's vision, "No! I don't want to die! I have not qualified as a Magus yet! Or seen the rest of the world! How could I just die a silent death here !"

As he tumbled on the ground, Leylin picked up a green rock from behind him.

"Ha!" Jumping back up, he viciously smashed the rock down onto the

Red-Eyed Raven's head!

Bang! This time, Leylin used all of his strength, and the Red-Eyed Raven swayed as it fell onto the floor.

"Caw! Caw!" Angry cries were heard in the sky. Seeing that their comrade had died like that, the other two Red-Eyed Ravens immediately cried out and swooped down to avenge it.

"Bring it on!" Leylin lowered himself slightly, coiling his body into position, like a leopard who was about to catch its prey.

He felt every artery in his body expanding quickly, and the blood continuously surged, circulating huge amounts of energy into the various parts of his body. A warm current gradually rose in his lower abdomen, and the wound on his back no longer seemed as painful.

"Die!" Leylin shouted, and flung the rock in his hands out ruthlessly. This time, he seemed to have used all his energy, and the warmth in his body constantly responded to him. The rock let out an ear piercing whistle and directly struck one of the Red-Eyed Ravens.

"This is.....Internal life energy!" Leylin was mildly shocked. He had attained the qualities of a Preparatory Knight long ago. Moreover, he meditated constantly, so he was almost comparable to that of an actual Knight. However, he had not been able to ignite his internal life energy until now, and he never thought that he would be able to have a break through at this point.

Right at that moment, the warm current in his lower abdomen travelled to his two eyes, and a piercing pain in his eyes made them water.

When he opened his eyes, his vision was extremely blurry, as if he was shrouded in mist. However, the faint blue words of the A.I Chip had finally reappeared.

[Beep! The host has suffered from an unknown effect..... Abnormality in the current state!]

[Ho..... Host is hallucinating!]

The screen of the A.I Chip displayed was intermittent, as if it was suffering from a very strong interference.

“Hallucination!” Leylin was startled. However, at this moment, the other Red-Eyed Raven had already swooped down right in front of him. Behind him, there came a violent roar from the forest and a massive bear paw vehemently struck out at Leylin with a hooked claw.

Facing such a life-threatening attack, Leylin grit his teeth and actually closed both his eyes.

The sharp claws pierced his body and he felt an immense pain. However, it was not as painful as he thought, and Leylin’s body did not fall.

“It really is like this, huh?” Leylin’s lips curled upwards.

“A.I Chip! Show me my current state!”

The A.I Chip’s display merely appeared more distinct in the darkness.

The lines full of red-coloured warnings about the abnormal status was extremely striking, but Leylin had actually not realised it before.

[Beep! Detection over! The Host has breathed in very potent and delicate hallucinatory gas particles! The five senses were affected! To expel or not?]

“Begin expulsion immediately!” Leylin commanded.

[Beep! Reserve energy has been used, expulsion in progress!]

The A.I Chip indicated that the expulsion was complete, and only then did Leylin open his eyes.

Right now, he was situated inside a shrubbery, and the Violent Hilly Bear and Red-Eyed Raven disappeared without a trace.

There were many cuts on his body from the barbs in the shrubbery, and blood were dripping from them. However, there were no gashes on his back.

“It seems like it really was an illusion. What I saw earlier was completely artificial!”

Leylin looked at his surroundings again. On the left, there was a tree that had fallen, and he saw traces of scorch marks in his surroundings.

“Although what I saw was fake, my reactions were all real. The explosive potion and Umbra’s Hand uprooted the tree, and it is very likely that I mistook the tree for the Violent Hilly Bear!”

Leylin felt a little regretful. The explosive potion had cost him plenty of Magic Crystals, and he had spent a whopping amount before buying the formula and ingredients from Woon. But now, he had actually used it against a tree.

“However, it’s not like I didn’t reap any benefits.” Leylin looked at the prompt shown by the A.I Chip earlier.

[Secretion of adrenaline in the Host’s body has rapidly increased, blood flow has increased by 58%!]

[The Host has ignited internal life energy and broke through the boundaries of a Knight!]

“It might have been an illusion all along, but the igniting my internal life energy and advancing to a Knight was real!”

“It is also thanks to my advancement into a Knight that led me to realise that something was amiss, if not, I would have died just like that!”

Leylin was a little afraid, “A.I Chip! Record the status I was in earlier when I broke through into a Knight!”

[Beep! Recording is done, name: State of advancing to a Knight]

“This state may be the key to igniting internal life energy! However why would it have some resemblance to the magic powers from my previous world? It seems extremely unconventional!”

Leylin harboured a few suspicions. This Knight’s advancement method was extremely perilous. Many of the situations required luck, otherwise, there might be an excessive secretion of adrenaline, opening up the possibility of being poisoned to death.

Chapter 35: Returning To The Academy

“I wonder how Kaliweir and the others are doing now?”

When Leylin feebly picked himself up, he felt like his whole body was going to fall apart.

“Even with the A.I Chip, I have fallen into this state, let alone their situations. I had better find them quickly, it would be really terrible if they were to fall into a trap or encounter other wild beasts.

Leylin drew out a red-coloured potion from his waist pouch and opened the wooden plug. He poured the red liquid onto his wounds.

Hiss! White mist continuously rose up from the wound. Leylin gritted his teeth, his face a little twisted.

After the white mist dispersed, a red membrane was covering the wound, and the bleeding had already stopped. It had also closed the wound. Leylin waved his hands around and noticed that his movements were not restricted.

“This hemostatic potion is very good, but it’s so painful when it’s being used!”

Leylin grumbled, drew out another blue coloured potion, and gulped it down. The blue potion was sweet and carried the fragrance of white bread. Leylin felt his body getting much better and also recovered some strength. He walked out from the shrubbery and leaned against a big tree to rest.

“A.I Chip! For that hallucinatory gas, are there any remedies against it?”

Since he knew that the only danger over there was the hallucinatory gas particles, Leylin did not mind rescuing his other party members.

If it really wasn’t possible, then Leylin would just turn his head and return to the academy to inform the professors while praying for them.

[Suggestion: Freshwater has good protective properties against the infiltration of the gas particles!]

The A.I Chip replied.

“Freshwater, huh?” Leylin opened his water bottle and soaked a handkerchief, wrapping it over his nose and mouth before heading back to their previous location.

“I thought that I had run very far away, but I haven’t even gone a thousand metres!” Leylin retraced his footsteps. Moments later, when he returned back to where the party of five had split up, he was a little speechless.

“A.I Chip! Scan the area in front and form a map!”

Since he knew that the path in front was filled with hallucinatory gas particles, Leylin still felt very vulnerable despite his safeguard.

[Beep! Scan completed!]

An image appeared in front of Leylin’s eyes. Where the five of them were earlier, there was a depression with huge mushrooms growing out from it.

These mushrooms were extremely big and almost as tall as a human being. Each one was a mysterious purple colour, with many black spots faintly forming the image of a human in pain.

“What type of mushrooms are these?”

[Comparing to database! Similarity level: Spider-Faced Mushroom 98.7%, Spear-Lining Mushroom 74.5%, Purple Umbrella Flower 23.3%]

“Spider-Faced Mushroom?” Leylin thought back to an image he had seen in a picture book from the library.

“The Spider-Faced Mushroom is a very mysterious plant. It is able to emit extremely strong hallucinatory gas particles, and people with weak constitutions and other intelligent beings will not be able to resist them. They will often attract flying beasts and live together in harmony with them. It seems like the two Red-Eyed Ravens from earlier were attracted to them.”

Leylin noticed a few bones at the stem of the purple mushroom, some seemed to belong to humans, and some were from various creatures.

“However, these kinds of dangerous plants should have been cleaned up around our school area, unless they were moved here only recently!”

Leylin conjectured and suddenly felt chills over his body as if he had discovered a part of a conspiracy.

Shaking his head, “This is not something that I can attend to now. I had better hurry and look for Neela and the others and then leave immediately!”

With the help of the A.I Chip, finding the others of his party members proved to be extremely easy.

Raynor was lying not far away, with one of his thighs impaled on a branch. It seemed like he had run into it himself.

Not long later, Kaliweir was found too. At this moment, he looked like a lunatic, cleaving at a huge black boulder. He could not even see Leylin walking over, and was knocked out by Leylin in the end.

As for Neela and Lilisse, they were the luckiest. Not long after they left, they had been entangled within some vines. When Leylin found them, they were still clad in the glow of the green hastening potion and were actually not injured at all.

Leylin brought the four of them far away from the Spider-Faced Mushroom. When he found a stream, he tossed all of them into the water.

This was the suggestion given by the A.I Chip.

With the bone-chilling cold water from the stream invading the noses and throats of Kaliweir and the others, their bodies began to convulse violently.

“Cough Cough!” Kaliweir and the others started to cough violently.

Leylin moved the few of them onto flat ground and laid them on their backs. He then picked up a weapon and got into a defensive stance.

“What happened?” Kaliweir rubbed his aching head and propped himself up.

“Do you still remember what happened earlier?” Leylin came in front of

Kaliweir.

“Yes! I remember now, we met with the Violent Hilly Bear and even some Direwolves!” Kaliweir touched the gash on his face.

“Was it you who saved us?”

“Indeed! However, what we encountered were not ferocious beasts. I’ll explain it when the others have woken up!” Leylin pointed at the others, who seemed to be regaining consciousness slowly.

When the few of them left the domain of the Spider-Faced Mushrooms and gulped down huge amounts of fresh water, their minds started to clear again.

Leylin explained the matter of the Spider-Faced Mushrooms to them. As for himself, he said that he was lucky to avoid their situations because he had an item that could resist hallucinations.

After listening to Leylin, the expressions of Kaliweir and the others weren’t very good at all.

“Leylin! Thank you! I owe you my life!” Kaliweir said solemnly.

“Us too!” Neela and Lillisse spoke at the same time. As for Raynor, he opened his mouth but no words came out from it.

“I suggest that you all better tend to the injuries on your bodies first!” Leylin pointed to the puncture in Raynor’s thigh.

“Alright. I have some medicinal powder here. Do you need it, Raynor?”

Kaliweir felt for the item on his body, and then retrieved a bottle of medicinal powder from his waist pouch and gave it to Raynor.

Leylin took a whiff and knew that it was medicine from the regular world. While it had certain effectiveness, it was still incomparable to a hemostasis potion.

The party slowly treated the wounds on their bodies. Raynor was the most injured, and his lips were as pale as snow. His legs were wrapped very thickly with gauze. Kaliweir managed to find a stick for him to use as a crutch, so he could at least manage to walk.

The physiques of Magi already begin to differ from those of regular humans. With the help of potions, wounds that are not too severe will usually finish healing in a few nights.

“What should we do next?” Kaliweir looked at Leylin. Although he was the party leader in name, Leylin’s performance made him bow his head.

“Can you still walk?” Leylin asked Raynor.

“I can definitely walk! Don’t... don’t leave me behind!” Raynor hurriedly propped himself up with the crutch.

“Then we had better hurry and set off!” Leylin thought of the Spider-Faced Mushrooms and of his own predictions. He had an ominous feeling about the recent events.

“That’s right!” Neela and Lillisse agreed in unison, it seemed like they were afraid of this place already.

“My Hastening Potion! That was something that I spent 5 Magic Crystals on!” Along the journey, Neela lamented.

“That is still okay, look at me!” Kaliweir adjusted his sack; the most important things were the 12 Red-Eyed Raven claws in it as they were the proof of completing the mission. He then pointed to his ankle.

On his legs, tufts of black fur already covered his calves and began spreading to his thigh area.

“Although a seed from the Nimble Grass can allow you to run quickly, their reproductive abilities are too great. After using them, you will definitely be contaminated. If you don’t hurry back to the academy to take care of it, you might soon become a furry man!”

“Outer appearance is one thing. The most important thing is that if the Nimble Grass live on a human’s body for a long time, there will be poisonous properties! At that time, you can only amputate your leg!” Kaliweir said with a resolved expression, “Hurry!”

Although he still wore a deadpanned expression, his footsteps had obviously quickened.

After suffering from the Spider-Faced Mushrooms' attack, the five of them became easily frightened on the way home. Any rustling of leaves or blowing of the wind would make them feel nervous for a while.

When they finally saw the Abyssal Bone Forest Graveyard, Leylin swore that he had never found this graveyard so lovable before now.

"Password!" This time, the two-headed dog asked in a female voice.

"Abyssal Bone is paramount!" Kaliweir said slowly.

The password changes whenever a certain period of time has passed. However, the password will naturally be told in advance to those who go out on a mission, like them.

"Correct!" The two-headed dog allowed them to pass and returned to being a statue on the platform.

Leylin finally heaved a sigh of relief when they entered the academy's gates.

Although there were no deaths on this mission, they still met with several dangers along the way. If not for the A.I Chip's help, it was very likely that their party would have been wiped out completely.

"Let's go! We'll first hand in our mission!" Kaliweir's expression loosened and he smiled. As for Lillise and Neela, they both seemed relieved as well.

The five of them walked towards the Mission Area. Kaliweir queued in front of the counter while the other four waited to the side.

"Neela, did the missions cause so many injuries or deaths in the past?"

Leylin felt that the atmosphere was a little off. The number of casualties in the Mission Area had obviously increased, and there were curses and sobbing heard from time to time.

"We don't usually have this many! I can guarantee that!" Neela looked at the many acolytes with darkened expressions on their faces. It seemed like not only did they fail their missions, but they had also paid a heavy price for them.

“Look! The missions have been refreshed!”

Leylin raised his head and saw a notice hanging in the upper corner of the black wall, with striking red words.

“Attention! There has been a significant increase in the dangerous creatures around the academy. We hope that the acolytes who go out in the future will be more cautious. If you aren’t a Level 3 Acolyte, we recommend that you stay inside.

These words were a size bigger than the others and were written in a striking red font.

Behind the warning, there was a new mission written in red.

“Mission: Find out the source of the abnormalities in the academy’s vicinity. Reward: 500 Magic Crystals, high-grade information on 3 topics at will, or an improved spell model. This mission is categorised as extremely dangerous, be prudent when accepting this mission!”

“500 Magic Crystals, high-grade information on 3 topics, or even an improved spell model!” Leylin exclaimed.

“If only I had that many Magic Crystals!” Lilisse was also intimidated by the generous reward.

Chapter 36: Bottleneck

“Didn’t you read the notice? If you aren’t a Level 3 Acolyte, then going out is practically throwing your life away!” [1]

[tl: this voice is not kaiweir but another person at the counter]

A voice sounded, and Kaliweir appeared behind Neela.

“You’re back?” Leylin asked.

“Yeah! Here is the reward for our mission. 15 Magic Crystals!” Kaliweir opened the pouch and there, sat 15 Magic Crystals.

“According to our prior agreement, each of us gets 3 Magic Crystals!” Kaliweir divided the Magic Crystals and then opened a large black sack. It was filled with many Red-Eyed Raven claws, as well as feathers, eyeballs and other miscellaneous materials.

“There is also this stuff! Only the Red-Eyed Ravens’ two claws have some worth. Each one can be sold for about 1 Magic Crystal. As for the other materials, they’re worth roughly 15 Magic Crystals in total! Do you guys have any questions? If not, we’ll be dividing them accordingly!”

The Red-Eyed Raven claws were only needed to prove that the mission had been completed. After it has been confirmed, the acolytes are allowed to keep them, and they can be considered additional income.

“I have no problem with that!” Leylin smiled. This time, he merely wanted to gain experience and was not too fussed about the number of Magic Crystals.

This time, earning 30 Magic Crystals at once could be considered a lot. However, there were also the expenditures of this mission to factor in – Neela and Lilisse used a hastening potion, and Kaliweir used the seed from the Nimble Grass. As for Leylin, he had used an explosive potion, hemostasis potion, and a strength potion. All these expenditures amounted to over 30 Magic Crystals.

If they were to calculate everything, the mission would be considered a flop and would not even compare to Leylin’s brewing of potions to earn

money.

Seeing as Leylin had agreed, Neela, Lilisse, and Raynor could only nod their heads.

“In this mission, Leylin, you did the most. If not for you, we would have long been dead, so it’s alright if you take a little more!” Kaliweir was extremely sincere, and it seemed as though he had made up his mind about this long ago.

“I don’t need it!” Leylin smiled and picked out two of the Red-Eyed Raven claws, as well as some other materials, from the bag. After estimating that the things he had taken out were worth around 6 Magic Crystals, he stopped.

“These will be enough for me.”

“Alright, then we will redistribute the items again.....” Kaliweir felt a little forced, but Lilisse and Raynor were obviously happy about it.

All of them, more or less, had wounds on their bodies. Something seemed to have happened recently to the academy, and accepting missions would no longer be a possibility if it turned out to be dangerous. The group quickly exchanged their contact information and left the mission area.

Kaliweir left the fastest. By now, the black fur had already grown to his thighs, making his legs look like those of a gorilla, and it seemed like he could not wait to seek help.

“Goodbye!” Lilisse and Raynor bade farewell too.

“Could you tell me your dorm number?” Neela stuck closely to Leylin’s side while whispering into his ear.

Warm air blew into his ear and he felt a little ticklish.

“I’m not in the mood for that! Maybe next time!” Leylin declined. Right now, his body still ached faintly, so how could he be in the mood to do it?

“Alright! I’ll be waiting!” Neela laughed coquettishly and gave him a light peck on the cheek, before running away quickly.

Leylin shook his head and turned around, returning to his dorm.

As he opened his door, he saw that everything in the room had remained the same as before his departure and a feeling of security washed over him as he entered.

“The mission did not even last for a month, so why do I feel like a lot of time has passed?”

Leylin shut the door, placing the cross blade, sack, and other items aside before lying on his bed.

He enjoyed the soothing comfort provided as he rested on the soft bed.

“A.I Chip! Show me my current stats!”

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 2.5, Agility: 2.7, Vitality: 3.0, Spiritual Force: 4.2, Magical Power: 4.0. Status: Healthy]

There was an overall increase in the stats; his Strength, Agility and Vitality had all increased by 0.3, while his Spiritual Force increased by 0.1.

“After advancing to a proper Knight, all my stats have risen. As for my Spiritual Force, this is the result after one month of continuous meditation!”

Leylin gazed at the 3D image of him, “A.I Chip, calculate how much more the internal life energy in my body raises my stats.”

After a Knight ignites their internal life energy, there will still be a breakout period for their stats to increase. However, Leylin had already increased his stats plenty through meditation, so the effects may be diminished slightly.

[Establishing task, calculation in progress.....]

[Beep! The simulation has ended. Expected increase in Host's stats: Strength: 0.6, Agility: 0.3, Vitality: 0.1!] The A.I Chip's voice sounded.

If my stats were at 1.9 like the average person, this internal life energy would be able to raise all my stats by at least 1. However, now that my foundation is so high, raising it will be even more difficult!”

Leylin reasoned.

“The Farlier Family is only a newly established line of Knights. They have no training methods to pass on for after one turns into a Knight, so I have no inkling of how to advance to a Grand Knight.”

Although there should be information regarding this aspect in the academy, the potential of Knights are much inferior to that of Magi, so I can forgo this goal for now!”

Ever since he entered the academy, Leylin had devoted all his time and effort to his Magus studies and delayed his training to become a Knight.

Even a Grand Knight will only end up as a follower or servant of an official Magus. Besides, a Knight’s journey will end after becoming a Grand Knight. As for Magi, they can continuously advance, so Leylin naturally chose the path with a better prospect.

“Besides advancing to a Knight, this map is the only benefit of my trip outside this time.

Leylin projected the image of a huge map.

Faint blue lines formed the general outline of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy as well as its surroundings. It was even more detailed than the one Kaliweir had.

On this map, the path that Leylin and his party had taken was the clearest. Furthermore, the vicinity of where the Spider Faced Mushrooms had been found was even marked as a dangerous zone.

This map was formed through his own exploration, the scanning from the A.I Chip, as well as the map that Kaliweir had.

It could not be said to be completely free of mistakes. But this was definitely the most detailed map amongst the acolytes. He would be able to fetch a price of at least 2 Magic Crystals if he were to sell it.

In the centre of the map, green words highlighted the location of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

“From this map, it can be seen that our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is

only taking up an insubstantial area in the South Coast. It could also be said to be in a rural area.

“Furthermore, with Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in the centre, the Death Seas would be to the south. To the north, it would be the Mountain Plains of Despair; to the west, Sage Gotham’s Hut; and lastly, the Poolfield Kingdom to the east.

The north and south area are all forbidden regions, with countless dangerous creatures residing within them. Some with differing bloodlines, some of which have been contaminated. They are also haunted by evil spirits that are filled with grievances. Any acolyte stepping foot in those regions would die ten out of ten times.

“As for Sage Gotham’s Hut, it is another faction of the Magi. I have heard that there are some conflicts between Sage Gotham’s Hut and Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, so I can’t go there either.”

“The only one left for acolytes to explore would be the Poolfield Kingdom.”

Leylin thought indifferently. The factions in this world were similar to those of the Japanese during the world war, where various factions were divided in accordance to their territory and they controlled the various kingdoms from the dark.

In these kingdoms, the Magi bloodlines would be either royalty or nobility. As for the Knights, their bloodlines would commonly be those of wealthy families.

“In regards to their social hierarchies, the Magi would be like the feudal lords of the Warring States and the Knights would be the warriors and soldiers serving under them. Furthermore, they don’t have a lone sovereign governing them as a whole; there are as many small kingdoms as there are stars in the sky, fighting solely for their own benefits in a chaotic era.

“There are a few Magi families supporting the Poolfield Kingdom behind the scenes. The kingdom has a total of 19 provinces. Each area is extremely vast, with many small Magi families, wandering Magi, and

travellers living there. They would definitely not come to the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy to make any trades, so there should be some kind of small markets over there. I'll try concealing my identity and heading there to sell my potions!"

Leylin's Potioneering skills were only average, but with the help of the A.I Chip, his succession rate for brewing had long surpassed his senior Merlin and could even be comparable to that of his mentor, Kroft. However, all of this had to be kept with the utmost secrecy. As such, Leylin did not dare sell too many of his potions inside the academy.

However, once he advanced to a Level 3 Acolyte, he would reach a bottleneck. Without a vast amount of resources to use, one could only slowly progress with time.

Even a fifth-grade acolyte, without resources, would require at least 3 years advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte!

Leylin was only an average, third-grade acolyte, and could only rely on this bit of income on the surface. To satisfy the requirements for advancement, who knows how long he would have to wait.

"A.I Chip! Simulate the requirements that I need to advance into Level 3 Acolyte!"

[Prerequisites for Level 3 Acolyte: Spiritual Force: 7, mastery of at least 3 spell models, 500 grams of Reactive Elixirs required to aid with breakthrough.]

"Learning the 3 spell models is easy, but the Reactive Elixirs will be troublesome to obtain. I will need at least 500 Magic Crystals!"

Leylin's expression was extremely solemn. As a Potioneering acolyte, he naturally knew what Reactive Elixirs were. These potions were not the same as elementary potions like the strength potions or hemostasis potions. However, they required someone to have reached the basic level of Potioneering. There are those which increase Spiritual Force, Vitality, or even potions that can reinforce the mind runes at an alarming rate. The demand is always greater than the supply for them.

“500 Magic Crystals is a little too much. However, after I have finished mastering the elementary Potioneering techniques from Mentor Kroft, I can then start practicing with basic potions. I might only need to purchase 100 Magic Crystals worth of ingredients to make the potions myself.”

“It seems like the most important thing will be to get my Spiritual Force up to 7!” Leylin appeared to be deep in thought, “A.I Chip! According to my current status, how long will it take to meet these prerequisites through meditation?”

[Using the Host’s Spiritual Force as a base, simulation in progress!]

[Beep! The simulation has been completed. Estimated time needed: 8 Years 6 Months and 15 Days!]

The A.I Chip responded without any emotions.

“That long?” Leylin’s face turned pale, “What’s the problem? It only took me a little over a year to raise my Spiritual Force to 4.2 from the stats of an ordinary human..... “

[The host has gained a resistance towards meditation, changing to a higher tiered meditation technique is recommended. Another option is to find ingredients that are compatible for raising the effects of meditation!] The A.I Chip projected a screen, with the various data and results on it.

Chapter 37: Ancient Potions

“According to the A.I Chip’s simulations and extrapolations, the elementary meditation technique is most useful when used to construct mind runes. However, after a Level 2 Acolyte has finished constructing their 24 mind runes, they can only progress slowly with time.....”

“No wonder even fifth-grade acolytes get stuck at the bottleneck to advance to a Level 3 Acolyte!”

Leylin looked at the results of the mathematical formulas and entered into deep thought.

“I have been in the academy for this long, but I haven’t heard of any acolytes who own an advanced meditation technique. Furthermore, the apprentices of the other professors all stop progressing for at least a few years after they have reached Level 2 Acolyte standards. It seems like even the professors can do nothing regarding this matter of meditation techniques, so I can give up on it first!”

“As for the use of ingredients, there was some basic level potion formulas that could help in the raising of Spiritual Force. However, the price for them is rather high and the ingredients are also very costly. Even the results are rather appalling.....”

“However, my succession rate will definitely be higher than other Potioneering Masters because I have the A.I Chip. Therefore, increasing my Spiritual Force with this method is highly feasible!”

Leylin made up his mind. “What’s next is to collect formulas for potions that can raise my Spiritual Force. In addition, I should sell my potions outside and obtain more potion ingredients!”

“However, it seems rather dangerous outside the academy right now, so how am I supposed to go find those black markets or small-scale trading groups?”

Leylin’s brows furrowed again. “With these problems, the professors inside the academy will definitely not sit around and do nothing. The

problems will be resolved after a while; I had better get the potion formulas for increasing my Spiritual Force before anything else.”

If the problems outside could not be solved by even the Magi, then Leylin would definitely be at even more of a loss. Thinking this, he soon entered a dream state very quickly.

The next morning, Leylin sought out Professor Kroft.

“A potion formula that can raise Spiritual Force?” Kroft was a little surprised.

“The success rate of brewing these potions is too low and the resources required are extremely expensive. Many Potioneering Masters have lost their family fortunes over this, and only those with a strong family background are able to reap the benefits.....”

Although Leylin’s Potioneering talent was highly outstanding, Kroft still felt that his apprentice had set his goals a little too high.

“Sir, you know it too. My aptitude is only third-grade acolyte. For a third-grade acolyte to progress to a Magus, there is an even greater bottleneck. Breaking through to a Magus is easiest when it’s done at a young age, so I want to give it a gamble.”

Leylin spoke softly.

“Oh..... You!” Kroft sighed and sat down slowly, “I do have a few basic potion formulas for raising Spiritual Force, but I signed a contract preventing me from reselling the formulas when I got them from other parties. As for my own formulas, you are definitely not able to afford them.....”

“How many Magic Crystals are they worth?” Leylin’s heart sank, but he still asked.

“Haha! I knew you wouldn’t give up. 5000 Magic Crystals, and that’s only because you’re my apprentice!”

“Siii!” Leylin sucked in cold air, and then laughed bitterly, “It seems like I have no hope!”

“Developing a potion formula for raising Spiritual Force requires a Potioneering Master to spend a dozen, or even several dozens, of years on continuous experimentation, and the consumption for this is immense. Moreover, possessing an exclusive formula usually boosts a Potioneering Master’s family development. Hence, it is within reason for potion formulas to be this costly.”

Having a monopoly will yield the greatest profits. Leylin nodded his head slowly.

However, it also depends on who owns the formula. If it was an acolyte instead of a Magus, even Leylin would have harboured some bad notions. However, Kroft was an official Magus, and he had the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was behind him as his patron. Furthermore, his human relations were not bad; hence he did not have many worries.

“However, if you really have this goal, you might not be completely without answers!”

Just as Leylin was prepared to take his leave disappointingly, Kroft spoke these words.

“It seems like I have a chance!” Leylin was secretly elated and hurriedly bowed.

“Although I am unable to give you my personally-developed formulas, I still have a few formulas from the Magi of old, and they were obtained when I went exploring several times before, so you can use them and give it a try!” Kroft said slowly.

“Formulas from the Magi of old?” Leylin felt a little uncertain.

“Indeed! Magi were the most prosperous back in the ancient times. Not only did they construct the Byron empire which spanned over several continents, they had even set their sights on several other distant worlds, conquering different planes one at a time!” Kroft’s face was a little flushed. It seemed as though he held the utmost fascination towards the prowess of the ancient Magi.

“It’s a pity that the Byron Empire collapsed one night, due to some

unknown reason, and the legacies of these ancient Magi were lost. We, as Magi in more recent times, have only risen to power through a few remnants of the research and documents left behind by the ancient Magi.....”

Little by little, Kroft spoke of the story behind the scenes. This information was never mentioned in the historical books in the academy.

“I wonder how mighty these ancient Magi were?” Leylin put on a fascinated expression, and asked:

“Those formulas, are they all defective?”

“Indeed! You’re very smart! Although the effects of these formulas are good, many of the ingredients have already ceased to exist. At least, I have never come across them in the 200 years of my life.....”

Kroft said unhurriedly, “However, many Potioneering Masters still feel some affection for these ancient formulas because they all wish to find a substitute for them. Even if they have only a fraction of the original models, their effects are extremely useful!”

Leylin was elated. With the help of the A.I Chip, he would definitely save a lot of time and effort when researching them.

On the surface, he still put on a frowning and worried expression, “So..... You want me to find substitute ingredients?”

“Indeed! Potioneering Masters often rely on flashes of inspiration for their successes. Many new types of potions are developed on this basis. If you really want to, you can try your luck! However, the success rate will be extremely low!”

Kroft’s face darkened. It seemed as if he was reminded of his past failures.

“Sir! I still want to give it a try. Even if I won’t be able to develop a new formula, I can still improve my skills in brewing!” Leylin gritted his teeth.

“I can rest assured if this is your thinking!” Kroft nodded his head. After rummaging through the shelves behind him, he managed to find some

dusty scrolls.

“The formulas of the ancient Magi are all here.”

When Leylin received the scrolls, his hands dipped. They seemed to be made of some unknown material with an extremely high density.

Casually flipping to a green coloured formula sheet, Leylin was intimidated by the numerous scribbles of the ingredients required.

“Ghost Spirit Flower, Seven Leaves Grass..... The poison sac of a Human-Faced Snake.....The hair of a resentful ghost.....”

Leylin had never even heard of over half of the ingredients listed there. As for the remaining one-third, they were precious treasures even to a Magus, and looking at them made Leylin’s eyelids flutter wildly.

“How is it? You’re shocked, right? I had the same expression as you when I first saw them too! However, if you were to brew a potion in accordance with the ingredients listed, I dare say that it would be useful even for an official Magus!” Kroft smiled a little.

Leylin flipped through several other formulas. He tried to find something that would suit the level of an acolyte and would have the easiest to obtain ingredients. A good half an hour later, he had barely managed to sift through and find two.

“I’ll just take these two, the Azure Potion and the Tears of Mary!”

These two potions were better suited to Leylin’s current conditions.

“Alright! These two potion formulas suit you well!” Kroft nodded his head, “Each one is 150 Magic Crystals, so the total would be 300 Magic Crystals!”

Although this was a dozen times cheaper than a potion formula for raising Spiritual Force, Leylin still felt a little heartache. He drew out all of the Magic Crystals in his pockets, and the Magic Crystals clattered and piled up into a small mound in front of Kroft.

Within this mound, there were several pieces with greater energy undulations. These were mid-grade Magic Crystals, and the value of one

was equal to ten regular Magic Crystals.

“There are 250 Magic Crystals here, and I’ll add this blade of Snake-Patterned Grass!” Leylin wore a look of reluctance as he drew out a small cloth pouch from his robes. After opening it, there lay a blade of silver-coloured grass. It even had the pattern of a snake’s scales on its surface.

This was something that he commissioned Woon to obtain after a long period of time. However, having extracted a few of its properties, this blade of Snake-Patterned Grass was not very useful to him anymore.

“Oh! Snake-Patterned Grass. Although it is rather damaged, its properties are still intact. I estimate it to be worth about 50 Magic Crystals.” Kroft’s eyes shone as he inspected the blade of silver grass.

“The trade has been established! These two formulas are now yours!” Kroft smiled and nodded his head.

Leylin then pocketed the formulas for the Azure Potion and Tears of Mary and bowed to Kroft, bidding farewell before leaving the room.

“300 Magic Crystals! That was all the income I’ve earned from selling potions this year! The ingredients needed for these two potions are also very precious. I can only hurry and head outside the academy to sell my accumulated potions before I can exchange them for experiment resources.....”

Leylin felt a little heartache. However, his success were way higher than what the others were estimated to have, and apart from selling potions in the academy, he had still managed to amass many other potions. If he were to sell them outside the school, he would definitely earn a huge amount of Magic Crystals!

Ever since he obtained the two potion formulas, Leylin’s mind was filled with ideas on how to earn more Magic Crystals and brew potions.

“Leylin! Leylin!”

A girl’s voice rang and interrupted Leylin from his dazed state.

“It’s you, Bicky! I’m sorry, I was thinking about some things!”

Leylin sized up the girl in front of him. After a year of growth, Bicky's figure had even grown to be more provocative. Especially those two perky mounds on her chest, they had already begun to take shape.

"Hmph! Even you are like this! Fayle is the same too!" Bicky pouted.

"Haha!" Leylin glossed over it, "What's the matter, is Fayle ignoring you again?"

"That's not it! Fayle has been treating me well recently, and we even had dinner at the dining hall on the second floor yesterday!" Bicky said cheerfully, "Only, he seemed fixated on the academy's recent mission, the one with blood-red writing, wholeheartedly wanting to claim the reward!"

"500 Magic Crystals, high-grade information, and even an improved spell model. If I wasn't just a Level 2 Acolyte, I would most likely be tempted too!" Leylin joked.

"What were you thinking earlier?"

"Nothing much, only that selling potions within the academy are rather disadvantageous for me and I want to try selling them outside!" Leylin spoke with a half-truth.

Chapter 38: Nyssa

Regarding the matter of wanting to sell his potions outside the academy, Leylin felt that there was nothing much to hide.

Other Potioneering acolytes were sure to have these thoughts too, but no one would expect Leylin to sell such a surprising amount.

He must conceal his identity when selling the potions, but everything will be fine as long as he is not recognised.

“The acolytes in the academy are indeed clever, keeping the prices down!” Bicky nodded her head. “Why don’t you learn from our senior, Merlin. He signed a contract with a Magus family, where they provide potion ingredients to him for free and will buy all of the potions he makes!”

“I like my freedom!” Leylin shook his head. He knew a little about Merlin’s decision. Merlin had signed a contract with a Magus family. The family would provide huge amounts of ingredients for him to practice brewing and would also provide him with viable resources to aid him in breaking through to an official Magus. But after he becomes a Level 3 Acolyte, Merlin will have to provide a certain number of potions for the family every month. Furthermore, he would have to join the family after becoming an official Magus.

This was how Magus families roped in lowly acolytes.

Without the A.I Chip, Leylin might have embarked on a similar path. Or worse, having no family wanting to take him in because his aptitude was too poor.

“Bicky, your family resides in Poolfield Kingdom if I recall correctly, do you know if there are any markets or places for people to trade their goods?” Leylin asked.

“Of course! However, the situation there is extremely complicated. There are many wandering Magi and fugitives, so it is very chaotic and dangerous!”

“I know, but I don’t have to go there personally. For instance, I could always hire someone to do it for me.” Leylin began to spout nonsense.

“In the academy’s Mission Area, acolytes can also give out missions as long as they have enough Magic Crystals and are able to make a deposit.”

“That’s true! In that case, I will send a copy of the information to your room later!” Bicky nodded after giving it some thought.

“I will be really grateful for that! I’ll buy you a meal in the second level dining hall next time!” Leylin was elated.

“Alright!” Bicky smiled and her two eyes curved into a crescent moon shape.

.....

As time passed, Leylin continued to analyse the two formulas with the A.I Chip’s help. He also started to search for Rank 0 spells that could conceal his aura or change his appearance.

Bicky had sent the information regarding the Magus bazaar long ago. However, Leylin did not dare go out until the strange happenings outside the academy were resolved.

In the third level cafeteria that handed out free food, Leylin was eating a meal with Bill. Today’s meal consisted of white bread with fish paste, as well as steak and fruit juice.

“What? Perry is dead? But he was a Level 3 Acolyte!” Leylin was a little startled. Perry was a fifth-grade acolyte and also had a good mentor. Four years ago, he had risen to a Level 3 Acolyte and could be said to be an influential figure in the academy.

“That’s right! He accepted the mission to investigate the happenings around the academy and even formed a party for it. There was another Level 3 Acolyte in the party too!” Bill’s face darkened.”

“With a formation like this, only an official Magus could have killed Perry.” Leylin surmised. Perry was sure to be carrying a Magic Artifact, and he was one of the strongest among the Level 3 Acolytes, not to mention

any powerful, life-saving items his mentor could have given him. And yet he still died, making Leylin even more fearful of the danger surrounding the academy.

“Not necessarily, they might have been overwhelmed by numbers! I heard that when Perry was found, his lower body was missing and his innards were all eaten. At a glance, it’s clear that these are the doings of the Beastmen!”

“Beastmen?” Leylin recalled the contents of a book he had read. According to the book, there were two explanations of their origins. One described them as the failed experiments of a Magus, and the other called them a type of human subspecies.

However, a common point in both explanations was that these Beastmen were extremely savage and cunning.

“Weren’t they always in the Desolate Lands of Despair? Why would they be roaming here? They’re even attacking acolytes; don’t they know that this is simply provocation?” Leylin was a little puzzled.

“The brains of Beastmen were always poorly developed, who knows what they could be thinking. But they have never dared to provoke Magi, otherwise they would have been long extinct.” Bill added.

Whenever the academy’s official Magi go outside, their paths are not blocked, nor do any strange happenings occur. It seems as if these Beastmen concealed themselves in advance.

However, they would attack with all their might whenever they met with an acolyte. It was a standard case of bullying the weak while fearing the strong.

“They won’t be this rampant for much longer! Perry is an apprentice of Professor Harosi. He’s known for worrying about losing face and shielding his shortcomings, so he’ll definitely take action!” Bill said confidently.

One reason why the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy did not take action against those Beastmen was because the Beastmen were too weak and posed no threat whatsoever to an official Magus. On the other hand, they

give acolytes a chance to hone their battle skills and gain experience. However, the situation had changed now that an apprentice was dead.

However, Leylin still felt that it was absurd for these Beastmen to suddenly appear in the academy's vicinity. As with the Spider-Faced Mushroom incident from before, he felt that it was all part of a larger conspiracy.

"However, I'm not the only smart one in this academy. If I can think of it, others are sure to as well. Why are there no rumours as of yet?"

Leylin thought deeply, "This situation is a little odd, I had better make some preparations in advance."

"Leylin!" A voice called from behind him, and it seemed to be wavering a little. Leylin turned around and saw Guricha, one of the acolytes who had come to the academy with him and possessed the aptitude of a second-grade acolyte. The energy waves radiating from his body showed that he was still a Level 1 Acolyte.

"This is a friend of mine, I'll take my leave first!" Leylin said to Bill.

"Go do your thing!" Bill smiled.

"Is there a problem?" Leylin walked over to Guricha and asked softly. Guricha was usually a rather reserved person and was always being berated by Kaliweir and the rest, so he seldom hung out with them. There had to be a problem if he sought out Leylin this time.

"This... We do indeed have a problem! Could you come with me for a while?" Guricha asked.

"Alright!" Leylin agreed since he wasn't doing anything.

"Let's return to my dorm!" Guricha brought Leylin to his dorm.

Leylin looked at the room number, '1913'. It was quite a distance from his dorm, no wonder they did not see each other much.

"Let's go in! Don't be too shocked!" Guricha said preemptively.

Leylin inhaled deeply and placed his left hand into his waist pouch before pushing the door open and stepping inside.

Once he entered, a disgusting stench infiltrated his nose. It was rather similar to a mix of sewerage and the smell of a rotten corpse, and it almost made Leylin puke.

Enduring the sickening stench, Leylin examined Guricha's room. Its layout was similar to his but there was a girl sitting on the bed now, and beside her was a figure wrapped in a black cloak. The stench was coming out from the cloaked figure's body.

"Hello, Dodoria!" Leylin recognised her. She was also someone who came to the academy with him. Her aptitude was even worse than Guricha's, only a first-grade acolyte, and barely qualified as a Level 1 Acolyte even now.

As for the black-robed figure, according to the A.I Chip's scan, their energy waves were a little strange. Sometimes the readings showed that they were not even a Level 1 Acolyte, at times it showed that they were at the peak of a Level 1 Acolyte and could almost advance to a Level 2 Acolyte. Furthermore, the radiation on their body was exceptionally strong.

"Hello, Leylin!" Dodoria forced a smile, but both her eyes were red and puffy, as if she had just cried.

"What exactly is happening?" Leylin felt that the problem lay with this black-robed figure.

As expected, Guricha checked that the door was closed and then, forcing out a smile, he said to Leylin, "You have said hello to Dodoria already, but there is one more person, Nyssa. Do you still remember her?"

"Nyssa?" Naturally, Leylin remembered the little girl who had the aptitude of a first-grade acolyte and got along with Dodoria rather well. She had also come from the same place he did.

"This....." The black-robed figure was huge and swollen, like an extremely fat person, and even gave off a disgusting odor. It was very difficult for Leylin to link this figure with the petite and pleasant little girl from the past.

“Nyssa, take off your cloak! Leylin is not an outsider! Besides, you still need his help!” Guricha said.

“That’s right!” Dadoria encouraged, sitting by her side.

After listening to the exchange, the black-robed Nyssa hesitated for a while and then slowly took off her cloak.

“Ugh!” Leylin covered his mouth, his eyes wide, looking extremely shocked.

Just how on earth was this a “Person”!

Scars littered her face, and there were even signs of stitches. She had the snout of a pig, her head was bald, she was missing an ear, and had coarsely spaced teeth. A thick, repulsive, yellow fluid continuously flowed out of her mouth. Her facial features looked like they had been messed up by someone and then put back together.

Looking at her appearance, two words surfaced in Leylin’s mind: “Suture Freak”. Right now, Nyssa’s appearance was like someone casually taking parts of a creature’s corpse and sewing them together.

With such a horrendous outer appearance, and compared to Leylin’s image of how girls normally look like, Leylin finally understood why Nyssa chose to cloak herself in a black robe.

“This.....What is going on exactly?” Leylin’s face darkened.

“Do you still remember the additional conditions that we there when we were choosing our mentors?” Guricha reminded.

“You mean to say.....Aiding in the experiments!” Leylin got a shock. He had originally thought that the conditions offered by the professor were too good, and now it turned out to be a trap!

“That’s right! We didn’t have any Magic Crystals, so the choosing of our mentors was at random. Nyssa was allocated to a professor who specialises in Transfiguration!”

“He treated Nyssa well, not only did he impart her with a lot of knowledge, he even promised her 1 Magic Crystal a month if she

participated in his experiments!” Dadoria said, while wiping off the tears in her eyes with a handkerchief from time to time.

“Three days ago, Nyssa was poisoned by the radiation of a spell, and she has been like this ever since then,” Guricha explained gloomily.

“Human experiments?” Leylin’s heart sank. He knew that there were many Magi in the academy who did human body experiments in secret. However, they seldom operated on their acolytes directly.

“Although there are many Knights and peasants he could have experimented on, acolytes are of good calibre because they have the highest resistance to spells!” Nyssa finally opened her mouth. Her voice was hoarse with old age and even carried a metallic ring to it.

“That’s right!” Guricha continued, “Cough cough..... I, too, have been aiding my professor in many of his experiments. Although there are no irreversible changes yet, a few residual effects are beginning to appear.....”

Chapter 39: Two Methods

“A.I. Chip, examine Guricha!”

Leylin ordered. Immediately, an image of Guricha was projected and Leylin noticed some pathological symptoms in some of his organs, the lungs in particular.

Acolytes are already capable of resisting spells, so how strong would the radiation have to be for an acolyte to be unable to withstand it?

Leylin’s face changed, “What did the academy say about this?”

“What could they say? Nyssa signed a pact with her mentor before the experiment and even declined any compensation!” Dadoria exclaimed as she sobbed.

Leylin was silent. Many low-grade acolytes, with no magic crystals, could only be assigned to different professors randomly. If their luck was good, they would meet professors like Kroft. If their luck was bad and they were to meet with professors who liked to experiment on humans, then they could only blame themselves for being unlucky.

Additionally, many of the acolytes could not resist the enticements from their mentors and would cooperate with them for experiments, so even outcomes like death were a possibility.

A few acolytes would die from experiments in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy each year. In comparison, Nyssa, who was able to keep her life, was much luckier than those who died.

“So why did you look for me? If it’s to help seek revenge or any other justice-related matters, then I’m afraid I won’t be of any help.”

Leylin did not allow any room for negotiation right at the start. To challenge a Magus with the powers of an acolyte, he would only do that if there was water seeping through his brains.

“We don’t have such intentions. We’re just here to let you take a look to determine if there is still hope for Nyssa to recover her original appearance.” Guricha hurriedly shook his hands.

Leylin nodded his head. After all, he had the Potioneering Master, Kroft, standing behind him. If he couldn't think of anything either, Nyssa could only despair.

"Do you mind if I have a look?" Leylin asked Nyssa.

"I don't" Nyssa's voice was extremely soft, almost inaudible.

Leylin walked forward, and the disgusting stench only grew more revolting. Leylin forced himself to pick up Nyssa's palm.

Every finger was thicker than a carrot, looked purple, and there were disgusting rings of folded skin.

What used to be the dainty white fingers of a lady had turned into this. Leylin believed that if he could not help Nyssa, then she ought to mentally prepare herself.

Leylin pressed the back of Nyssa's hands "Do you feel anything?"

"No!"

"Her defense seems to be pretty good!" Leylin silently appraised, taking out a surgical knife from his waist pouch.

The tip of the gleaming knife was placed on the surface of her palm and pushed into the skin lightly, but it didn't manage to cut through the skin!

Leylin's brows furrowed and he applied more pressure on his hands, using all of his strength as a Knight to push down the tip of the blade. The surgical knife finally pierced Nyssa's skin, and a drop of yellow pus flowed out.

Leylin hurriedly took out a test tube and stored that drop of pus.

After dabbing some hemostasis potion on it, the wound on Nyssa's hand rapidly healed. 10 seconds later, there wasn't a single scar to be seen.

"What monstrous healing abilities!" Leylin gasped inwardly, but didn't dare say it aloud.

Seeing Ddoria and Guricha, who were staring at him without moving, Leylin laughed.

“Qiadarmo - Xurado” With the incantation, a gust of wind suddenly swept into the room and formed a small whirlwind.

Black mist rose unceasingly as it consolidated into a vague, humanoid shadow in front of Leylin.

Guricha and Dodoria were startled, and even Nyssa retreated several steps back.

“I never thought that he would already be at this level after only 1 year or so. Could there really be no way to remedy the difference between aptitudes?” Guricha looked at Leylin, who was casting a spell, with a complex expression.

Leylin did not pay attention to Guricha in the slightest. Right now, his thoughts were all on the summon that was right in front of him.

“For you!” Leylin spoke in the Byron language and handed over the test tube containing the yellow fluid from Nyssa over to the shadow.

The shadow’s eyes glowed red. As it did not have any hands, it directly bit the test tube with its mouth. Crunch!

The test tube broke and the black shadow swallowed the yellow liquid into its stomach.

Hah Hah! When the yellow fluid entered its body, the black shadow seemed to destabilise. It roared loudly, and cold sweat formed on Leylin’s forehead.

“Krin - Sidamoersi!” As Leylin continued to chant, he took several dark-green rocks from his pouch and tossed them towards the shadow.

After about 3 to 4 minutes, the black shadow stopped rampaging and spoke to Leylin in several obscure words.

Guricha and the others listened closely, but this language was very unfamiliar to them. It was definitely not the Byron language.

Ever since the ancient times, many Magi organisations have invented their own unique language for magic after many years, so to learn them all is just a pipe-dream.

The black shadow continued to howl, and then disappeared after one final roar.

Looking at the disappearing black shadow, Leylin could not help but to heave a sigh of relief.

“How was it?” Nyssa asked. As it was her own problem, she was the most concerned about it.

“It’s very difficult! Your constitution has already been completely transformed, and there is a huge amount of polluted energy circulating in your body. If not for the fact that you were an acolyte, you would have died long ago!” Leylin shook his head.

After listening to Leylin’s assessment, Nyssa’s eyes dimmed and she retreated back several steps.

“However, it’s not like there are no solutions at all!” Leylin continued.

“What means are there? No matter what the conditions are, I will definitely do my best for Nyssa!” Ddoria clenched her fist.

“Yes, we should think of a way together. Then we’ll be able to solve it eventually!” Guricha cheered on, which made Leylin somewhat speechless.

“The first method is for Nyssa to advance to an official Magus. Magi are able to use the constant radiation to change the way they look. As long as she spends the time, she will definitely be able to change back into her original appearance!”

Leylin said slowly. This kind of remodeling of the physique through radiation required fine tuning from oneself. There was no room for other Magi to help; there would be a huge backlash if they tried.

“An official Magus? I am only a Level 1 Acolyte right now!” Nyssa’s eyes flashed for a brief instant, but it dulled almost immediately.

“That is too difficult, however, it is also an option. What other methods are there?” Ddoria asked.

“There is only one more method I can think of, which is to use the Harmonious Aqua Regia Potion! It can cleanse Nyssa’s body of the

pollutants, after which it would be much easier to remodel her appearance.” Leylin introduced the second method.

“Harmonious Aqua Regia Potion! Heavens! Isn’t that a potion used by Magi? One potion is worth at least 1000 Magic Crystals!” Guricha’s eyes almost popped out from his sockets.

“That’s right! The pollutant in Nyssa’s body is rather severe, only a Magus level potion that can remove radiation will be useful!” Leylin said definitively.

“These are the only two methods that I can think of, but I will also ask my mentor later!”

These two methods were the most optimal of the choices provided by the A.I. Chip, Leylin believed that even Mentor Kroft would not be able to come up with a better idea.

“An official Magus? 1000 Magic Crystals? I will achieve it!” Nyssa’s eyes filled with resolve as she clenched her fists.

“My sincere apologies for not being able to help. Please accept these potions, it will be able to reduce the pain that you feel during midnight!”

Leylin gave a small bow and took out a pink potion from his pouch. He could only do this much.

“How did you know about that?” Nyssa was clearly a little shocked.

“From the reactions given by your body, it seems like the energy particles react the most at midnight, which is also when you will feel the most pain!” Leylin explained calmly.

“Nyssa! Why haven’t you told me this!” Dodoria’s eyes filled with anger once again.

“You have already done enough!” Nyssa replied.

“Take it!” Leylin handed the potion over to Guricha and turned around, walking out of the dorm.

The three people left in the room were as silent as the dead. “What now?” Guricha spoke first.

“An official Magus? This is simply out of reach for us because of our low aptitudes. The acquiring of Magic Crystals to buy a Harmonious Aqua Regia Potion is more realistic!” Ddoria said.

“If the three of us were to pool our resources together, after borrowing some more from others, we would have.....” Ddoria did not even believe her own words. Acolytes would definitely spend any Magic Crystals they had on knowledge or items to increase their power. No one would simply throw them away.

“No! I wish to try breaking through to an official Magus!” Nyssa said slowly, her words filled with resolve.

“With the blessings of my mentor, this radioactive body’s defense is much higher than an average person’s. My spell resistance isn’t too bad either, I should accept more missions and earn the resources I need to advance! I cannot hold the two of you back any longer.....”

Nyssa forced a smile, but it looked uglier than crying.

“Why? Why did it turn out like this?” Ddoria cried.

Guricha hurriedly embraced her, it seemed like these two had been a couple since long ago.

“Following the plots of the novels from my previous world, shouldn’t I hurry and sell some potions to earn enough money to pay for Nyssa’s treatment? And at the same time, I ought to advance to a Magus and seek revenge for Nyssa and the like.”

Leylin let his imagination run wild as he walked.

“A pity that this is reality! Nyssa and I can’t even be considered friends, only strangers who have seen each other a few times. Giving her the painkiller potion earlier was already the limit, and that was seeing how we came from the same place!”

“As for Magic Crystals, I don’t even have enough to use for myself, so how could I take them out? One must always pay the price for their own actions!”

Leylin's gaze turned frosty as he left the dorm area.

He would not do anything else for Nyssa, and she would only depend on herself.

After walking past the flower garden located beside the dorms, sniffing the aroma from the flowers, and basking in the sunlight radiating from the roof, Leylin's mood became much better.

Walking to a long bench, Leylin sat down and looked at the acolytes walking past, his mind at peace.

"Coming out to bask in the sunlight occasionally is also a type of enjoyment, isn't it?"

A voice travelled over and a grey robed youth sat beside Leylin.

"Jayden?" Leylin's eyes opened wide.

[Beep! Jayden. Strength: 1.9, Agility: 2.7, Vitality: 3.1, Spiritual Force: 5.0. Level 2 Acolyte. Energy waves from a low-grade Magic Artifact have been detected from the Target's body. Target is classified as dangerous!] The A.I Chip's scan of Jayden appeared in Leylin's mind.

Jayden's Spiritual Force was the highest among the acolytes, and even his Vitality had increased after the constant radiation. Normally, Magus would intentionally increase their Vitality to prepare for future transformations of the body.

Right now, Jayden's Spiritual Force was higher than Leylin's. He also carried a Magic Artifact, but no one knew of his battle experience.

"Calculate my chances of winning if I were to fight with Jayden!"

[Simulation beginning. Success rate: 57.82%!] The A.I. Chip provided the data.

"Only a little over half, it seems like the might of a Magic Artifact is not little. Jayden is no pushover too."

Chapter 40: A Word Of Advice

After the A.I. Chip's scan, Leylin understood Jayden's strength a little more.

Leylin was considered to have a considerable amount of battle experience amongst the Level 2 Acolytes. As long as his opponent did not have a Magic Artifact, he would have a very high chance of winning.

Jayden had a Magic Artifact, but was still slightly inferior to him. This meant that his battle strength was lower than Leylin's. Even though he had some battle experience, it was not much.

Of course, these were only rough estimations from the A.I. Chip. In reality, fighting has to be viewed from many aspects.

"Jayden, I haven't seen you in such a long time!" Leylin greeted.

Jayden naturally did not know that his stats had been found out by Leylin in just a second. He adjusted his robes and sat by Leylin's side.

He revealed his pale, white face as he raised his head to meet the sunlight.

"I haven't basked in the sunlight for so long. Ever since I started following my mentor, my schedule has revolved around..... meditation, experiments and my studies!"

Jayden stretched his body, looking contented.

"I heard that you are doing pretty well under Kroft!" Jayden said suddenly.

"It's alright; I'm basically just brewing potions and exchanging them for resources!" Leylin was extremely modest.

"However, you recently went on a mission with Kaliweir, are you going to join that side?" Jayden suddenly smiled, but a cold glint seemed to flash in his eyes.

Leylin was a little speechless. He never thought that this conflict between groups that these kids had formed before was still ongoing.

However, he had forgotten that he himself was only a boy of 14 years at this moment.

“We’re all acquaintances, we just did a mission together since we met by coincidence. That’s all!” Although Leylin was not afraid of Jayden, he still felt that it was better to avoid any trouble as much as possible.

Jayden looked at Leylin several times and the A.I. Chip even informed Leylin that his brain waves had been scanned several times. It seemed as though Jayden had actually used a spell to determine if he was speaking the truth.

After some time, Jayden gave a radiant smile.

“I think highly of you! Intelligent! Prudent! Being with Kaliweir and the others will only drag you down. Only by joining a higher circle of friends can you obtain more resources, glory, and even life!”

Jayden got up and continued in an indifferent tone, “Let me give you some advice, hurry up and leave the school!”

“What? Could you clarify that?” Leylin’s heart tightened, as if had grasped something, and he hurriedly asked.

However, Jayden only smiled, walking away without taking a single glance behind him.

After Jayden’s figure had completely disappeared, Leylin sat back on the bench, a little lost for words.

“Pretending to be mysterious, as if he was a very powerful person, and even trying to convince me to join under his wing. Is that even fun? Does he really think of himself as the main character of a novel?”

“However! Jayden is a fifth-grade acolyte and is deemed highly likely to advance to a Magus. He would definitely be able to obtain news faster than me. I’m afraid that something has really happened!” Leylin’s face darkened.

.....

In a dark room, the fire was dimmed, and a promiscuous atmosphere

permeated through the room.

The moaning and shrill cries of a woman sounded, blending together with the constant low panting noises of a man.

After climaxing, the girl lay in the arms of the man, as limp as a bag of soil.

“You’re awesome, just like a lion!” Neela’s expression was hard to make out.

Leylin gently caressed Neela’s bare back and did not say a single word.

He had encountered many things today and urgently needed to take it out on someone, so naturally he looked for Neela.

In this period of time, he had long since hooked up with Neela. In this world, everyone was extremely open-minded about the notion of sex. Many people lost their virginity by the age of 11 or 12. Leylin and Neela both had their sexual needs, so they had already done the deed after only a few days.

In any case, Neela was no longer a virgin. As for Leylin, he himself was a no-good person in his previous life. Both of them desired love and sex, and it wasn’t bad to have a friend with benefits.

With the regulation of the A.I. Chip, he would definitely not leave his seed behind. Naturally, he could mess around to the fullest.

Thinking of this, Leylin felt life stirring below his pants once again.

“Ah!” Neela let off a cry, and Leylin stopped her as she was about to climb on top of him. The corner of Leylin’s lips curved up wickedly, as he pressed Neela’s head downwards.

Neela rolled her eyes at Leylin, but her lips smiled coquettishly as she dived under the blankets.

Leylin let out a satisfied groan and leaned onto the wall slightly. Both of his hands grabbed hold of twin peaks, and he felt the sponge-like sensation transmitting to his hands.

Sometime later, Neela got up and walked towards the washroom stark

naked.

While he listened to the provocative beauty humming as she showered, Leylin began to ponder the day's event.

"I shouldn't care about Nyssa's affairs anymore. Although Jayden's warning was extremely sudden, it has to be treated seriously. This might have something to do with the phenomenon outside the academy. What's next is to investigate where the other fifth-grade acolytes went."

In any case, the academy would definitely not forsake those acolytes who had the highest potential to succeed and advance to official Magi. If the academy was safe, they would definitely still be here. However, if they all left the academy with various reasons, it meant that the academy itself would be fraught with danger in the near future.

"Harosi has been cleaning up the area outside the academy since Perry's death. After he has finished cleaning, it will be the best opportunity!" Leylin's eyes flashed.

"My dearest, what are you thinking of?"

Neela stuck herself onto Leylin, and two soft mounds pressed against Leylin's right arm.

"Just thinking about a few things!" Leylin smiled, "Recently Sir Harosi seems to be making a huge ruckus outside the academy!"

"You heard about it too? About Perry?" Neela lay on top of Leylin's chest and did not make any other movements.

"Yeah! Losing a fifth-grade acolyte genius and a potential Magus, anyone would turn crazy for a period of time!"

Leylin said blandly, "You have your own cliques too, I need you to help me to find out a few things!"

"Neela's smiled sweetly, "I'll serve you, my lion king!"

"Don't call me that! It feels extremely strange! It will make me think of some lion!" Leylin rolled his eyes.

"Alright! Let's not talk about this, but about something more serious!"

Leylin's face was stern.

Seeing him act this way, Neela also stopped smiling.

Getting close to Leylin was so she could elevate her status and obtain more resources, and she clearly understood this.

"Help me check the results of Harosi's battle. Also, find out if the academy's surroundings are completely safe now. Lastly, I want to know where all the fifth-grade acolytes have gone recently!"

Leylin whispered into Neela's ears.

"I got it!" Neela grabbed Leylin's head with both hands, "Could it be that something big is going to happen?"

"I hope that it is only my imagination!"

.....

It was the morning of the second day after he had walked out from Neela's room. Leylin felt extremely refreshed and full of vigour. It seemed like his venting had indeed helped in curbing his emotional distress suitably.

After thinking for a while, Leylin went for a shower and then headed towards Professor Kroft.

Kroft happened to be brewing a kind of potion. Red-coloured beetles were climbing around inside a test tube, occupying half of the space inside the test tube. It looked rather disgusting.

"You're here! Is something the matter?"

Kroft watched the test tube closely, as he sprinkled some blue petals into it.

The red-coloured beetles hurriedly gorged on those petals, after which they dissolved and turned into a green-coloured liquid.

A dozen seconds later, the test tube half-filled with the red beetles turned into a green-coloured potion.

"Your skills are really amazing!" Leylin gasped.

“Haha! It’s just practicing!” Kroft shook his head, “You always look for me when you have a problem, so tell me what you want!”

“It’s like this. I, your apprentice, haven’t seen senior Merlin, for some time now. Can I know where he has been?” Leylin inhaled deeply.

“Merlin?” Kroft’s face had on a mysterious smile, “He has accepted a mission and left the academy already!”

“How long will it last?”

“About 1 to 1.5 years! It’s possible that it may take longer!” Kroft’s tone became sterner, but there was a hint of gratification in it.

“One last question, was the mission suggested by the family supporting senior Merlin?”

As a family that was able to rope in a genius Potioneering acolyte from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, their influence should be at the peak. After all, they had an intricate relationship with Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, so their news network might even be more efficient than Kroft’s.

“Yes!” Kroft answered definitively. “You know, there are some things that were agreed on between the academy and me, so I cannot say it directly. But if you are to discover it on your own, then it would be none of my business!”

“However, you don’t need to be too worried. Your talent in Potioneering is only secondary to Merlin’s, and the academy needs a talent like you too!” Kroft comforted him.

“Yes!” Leylin smiled bitterly. It seemed like the academy still chose to categorise by aptitude grades. Those talented individuals like Jayden and Merlin who were also fifth-grade acolytes had all been given ample time to retreat. But when it came to him, the treatment he received was much inferior. Up until now, he had only received a few obscure hints from his mentor.

As for those whose aptitudes were even worse, they probably wouldn’t know what happened even after they were dead.

Although Leylin did not understand too well either, there was one thing that he was certain of! The academy was no longer a safe place to stay!

Once again, Leylin was determined to leave, “So, may I also take up a dispatch mission?”

“You may! Go to the counter of the Mission Area and clarify your intentions. They will be able to understand, since your aptitude isn’t too bad and your talent in Potioneering is even more outstanding!”

Kroft nodded his head.

“Thank you, Sir!” Leylin hurriedly bowed. Allowing acolytes to leave was an extremely good thing for them, after all, he did not want to stay in a potential battlefield.

Afterwards, Leylin assisted Kroft in a few more research experiments in Potioneering and also took the opportunity to seek answers for Nyssa’s problem. Unfortunately, Kroft did not have any good methods either.

After bidding farewell to his mentor, Leylin walked outside, “There is only a small family behind Bicky. As for Kaliweir and the others, they aren’t fifth-grade acolytes, so they will most likely not receive the news. I’m afraid I will have to drop a few hints for them. As to whether they will understand the message or not, it all depends on their luck!”

In the lavish second-level dining hall, the gorgeous crystal lights sparkled dazzlingly, as numerous musicians performed. Listening to music while tasting delicacies, it was indeed a very enjoyable thing to do.

Furthermore, the food here was all prepared with the utmost care. Not only could they increase one’s stats, they could also speed up the meditation process. As such, they have always been welcomed by acolytes and Magi alike.

However, there were very few customers here today. Most of their faces were gloomy, and the sight was rather unappetising.

Leylin sat on a goose feathered coach and pushed a steaming mug towards Neela, “This is hot cocoa, with some grinded black pearls inside it as well. It has also a certain beneficial effect towards meditation, won’t

you try it?"

Neela, who was sitting opposite him, smiled bitterly, "If it was before, I would still be extremely excited. But now....."

Chapter 41: Making Purchases

Leylin did not feel the slightest bit odd. Despite any pretenses, the atmosphere in the academy was very different with such a huge war imminent. Besides, a large number of talented Magus acolytes going missing would definitely rouse the attention of others as well.

Moreover, the academy didn't seem to want to hide this news. After all, they would still be relying on the official Magi for the upcoming battle, and these acolytes would not be of much help at all.

Those that were left behind would definitely be those with the lowest aptitude and levels, only there to be used as cannon fodder.

"Mentor Harosi has already cleared out the area around the school of Beastmen and any creatures who would pose a problem. They have been all reduced to skeletons by spells, especially the Beastmen, and their souls have been trapped in their bodies to suffer for eternity....."

Leylin gave a slight nod of his head. It seems like the vicinity of the academy was safe for the moment.

"How about the other Magus potentials?"

"Very troublesome! According to the news that my other sisters have gathered, many of the acolytes with high aptitudes, including Chester and Sherpa, have all left the academy for various reasons. I'm afraid that it won't be much longer before this news spreads.....What did you find out?"

"My senior, Merlin, already left a few months ago! Furthermore, I, too, will take on a mission and leave soon!"

Leylin blandly spoke of the news he had gathered, and this made Neela's face turn even paler.

"What about you? What are your plans?" Leylin still asked her at the end.

"I plan to return to my family. You know, although my Welter family is not very famous, we are still able to take care of ourselves. Do you want to come with me?" Neela clearly wanted to rope in a talent like Leylin for her

family.

“No thanks! I have made plans for myself already!” Leylin smiled, turning her down. He would be subjected to various contracts and restrictions if he joined a family. However, he had too many secrets and was not suited to having an entourage.

The light in Neela’s eyes dimmed. Leylin also knew that their relationship had come to an end. After all, they had just been enjoying themselves, but going their separate ways now, in a time of crisis, was very normal.

“There is still something that I have to ask of you!” Leylin took out a black-coloured wooden box and placed it on the dining table.

“What is it?” Neela smiled, but it seemed rather forced.

He opened the black box. Many potions in test tubes were neatly arranged inside, and the sight dazzled Neela’s eyes.

“This is.....” Neela’s mesmerising eyes let off an astonished look.

“These are the potions that I have accumulated until now. Help me sell them off!” Despite crossing his fingers, Leylin’s expression remained calm.

Of course, this was only a small portion of the potions that he had secretly brewed. Saying that it was his accumulation after a year was reasonable; their total value was several hundred Magic Crystals.

Letting Neela sell them for him was because Leylin didn’t want to be conspicuous. On the other hand, it also provided her with a little compensation.

After all, a trace of chauvinism still remained, deep in his heart. Breaking up would require him to give some form of compensation at least, and letting Neela be the middleman gave her a chance to earn some profits.

“No problem! Right now, the values of the various ingredients and spell models have fallen sharply, while potions and low-grade Magic Artifacts have drastically risen in price.” Neela’s eyes flashed.

This was a normal occurrence. Spell models and other materials would definitely decrease in price whenever war was imminent, as they could not be used to improve one's practical strength immediately. As for the other items that are able to raise one's battle strength, they would be in high demand.

"After selling these potions, just give me 300 Magic Crystals for them!" Leylin sipped the hot cocoa which had been resting on the table.

Neela's expression was a little complicated, "Of course it's possible. In fact, my family could just buy them all! Do you have more? I can let my family know and give you a fair deal....."

"These are all the potions I have accumulated in the past year! You should know, I still need to rely on selling potions to obtain resources. If not for the market doing well right now, I wouldn't let them all go in one breath like I am doing now!" Leylin's expression seemed extremely earnest.

"Alright! I will do my best to help you!" Neela understood. In her eyes, Leylin brewing these potions nonstop and having such a collection was already the limit with his current ability.

As the two of them had their own worries, the meal that followed was not very appetising for the both of them.

After the meal, Neela hurriedly bade farewell to Leylin. Leylin entrusted some people to bring a few messages to the people that he mixed well with as well. He did not mention any details and only gave them subtle hints. Whether or not they could uncover the plot was all up to them.

Neela was extremely fast, and she handed Leylin a pouch of Magic Crystals the very next day.

After giving it some thought, Leylin decided it was better to spend his Magic Crystals while he was still at the academy. After all, he might not be able to find a trading depot outside, and even if he did, the resources there may not be as complete as what the school has.

This departure would most likely last an extended period of time. Leylin

made preparations for his advancement outside. He prepared to buy ingredients to brew Reactive Elixirs and spell models available. As for any knowledge that a Level 3 Acolyte might require, it had been stored in the A.I Chip since long ago.

However, the knowledge provided by the professors stopped there. As for the advancement to an official Magus and the basic information for a Level 1 Magus, the knowledge was heavily guarded by the academy. Only Level 3 Acolytes who have signed a contract with them would have the right to access them.

Leylin headed to the spell models' shop first.

"What do you want?" The attitude of the old lady behind the counter was even more vehement now. However, Leylin's good mood didn't waver. He already knew that those Level 3 Acolytes had failed in advancing to an official Magus and they had signed a contract with the school, to stay behind and provide basic services. Due to the restrictions in the contract, they could not run even if they wanted to. With the impending battle and the collateral damage that would be inflicted upon them, it would be weird if they had a good attitude!

"Apart from Umbra's Hand, I want all of the basic spell models for the Shadow and Dark elements!" Leylin put on a very magnanimous air.

The old lady behind the counter looked at Leylin in surprise. After all, such a wealthy Level 2 Acolyte like him was rarely seen.

"There is a total of 13, for 130 Magic Crystals."

"I also want the Basic Transfiguration spell model!"

"That'll be 140 Magic Crystals then." The voice of the old lady sounded from behind the counter.

Leylin nodded his head and poured a bag of Magic Crystals out onto the counter. The lady counted them and put them away, after which she carried 14 spell books over. Each of them was as heavy as a brick, and they stacked up to almost Leylin's height.

"It seems like I should buy some horses as well!"

Leylin hired a few servants and got them to bring the spell model books back into his room, and then he returned to the Trading Area.

At this moment, the Trading Area was one of the few places that were still bustling with people.

The number of acolytes who came here had also increased. Many premium goods had been put up for sale, attracting the attention of numerous acolytes.

“It seems like even the acolytes have noticed.” Leylin mulled.

It was similar to how, in the forest, a small number of animals would sense danger and take flight before a huge disaster befell them, but other animals would naturally follow when they saw the animals leaving, even if they did not sense any danger.

“However, there are still no Magic Artifacts here.” Leylin felt a little depressed. He had always wanted to own a Magic Artifact, but they were just too rare. Moreover, the prices were sky-high, and they would end up in the hands of a Magus every time they appeared. On the occasion that the Magi were dissatisfied with the Magic Artifact, the Level 3 Acolytes would all madly rush forward to grab it. Leylin simply didn’t stand a chance.

“Magic Artifact creation requires Alchemy and Enchanting, and it’s such a profound subject. I don’t even have enough time to focus on my Potioneering studies now!”

Leylin laughed bitterly, even the A.I Chip had a limit to its processing. According to Leylin’s previous experience, only when his soul continuously advanced, would the A.I Chip’s level increase.

“When I become a Level 3 Acolyte, if I don’t have any other means, I will dabble in Enchanting and see if I can create my own Magic Artifact!”

These stalls that had no Magic Artifacts did not attract Leylin in the slightest bit.

However, there were still some unusual happenings. For example, the stalls that were selling potions were filled with people and the sale of

bows, arrows, and leather armour was also great. But as for the stalls that sold ingredients, they were rarely frequented.

He walked to Woon's store, which he was familiar with.

Right now, it was crowded with acolytes and they bought any potions that they saw, in a very forthright manner.

Woon was so busy that he was sweating, and had even employed a few acolytes to help him. Such a scene was definitely not common in the past.

Leylin looked around. The potions on the shelves sold very quickly, many empty shelves were labelled as sold out.

Woon's eyes shone when he saw Leylin. He called an acolyte to fill his position, and especially went to receive Leylin.

"Hey! My dear Leylin, I heard the cries of a skylark today, and I know you will definitely bring good news. So? How many potions? I can give you 10% more than usual!" Woon greeted Leylin cordially and looked at Leylin as if he was looking at a Magic Crystal.

"My apologies." Leylin waved his hands, "I've been busy with missions, so I haven't been brewing much recently!"

"This is indeed a tragic piece of news!" Woon sighed, "You don't know know how good the market is these days!"

"Alright! Alright! I came here to purchase ingredients." Leylin said and handed a list of items over to Woon.

After Woon received the slip and looked at the scribbles and quantities required, his face changed and bean-sized sweat droplets begin dripping down.

"So many raw materials! Let me see, White Crystals, Purple Vine Radish Roots, claws of a Ghost Goblin, are you trying to brew a Reaction Elixir?" The fatty asked straightforwardly.

"Yes! Indeed! I want to make preparations for my advancement. If you have any completed Reactive Elixirs in stock right now I'll buy them off you. You can set the price!"

Leylin spoke casually, the formulas for the Reactive Elixirs could be found in the library and many people have seen them before. The fatty being able to recognise the ingredients was nothing amazing.

Underneath the Reactive Elixir ingredients, Leylin had also added the many common ingredients needed for the Azure Potion and Tears of Mary. As for the few important ingredients, they have already been extinct in the Magus World for several hundreds of years, so Leylin did not even bother to write them down.

“The brewing of Reactive Elixirs is extremely complicated and the success rate is also very low. The demand for it is so high, and they immediately sell out once they appear. How could I still have stock left?” Woon shook his head.

“At least, you Potioneering Masters are better off, you can brew whatever potions you need by yourself. I remember that when I was still a Level 2 Acolyte, I committed so many crimes just for a bottle of Reactive Elixir!”

Chapter 42: Leaving Temporarily

“Alright, let’s not talk about this anymore! These ingredients weren’t originally this cheap, but the prices of raw materials have fallen now, so I’ll sell them for 200 Magic Crystals.”

Woox set his price.

Leylin nodded and handed over 20 middle-grade Magic Crystals to Woox.

He then received a huge bundle from Woox, drawing the attention of many onlookers in the vicinity.

Leylin smiled bitterly, carried the bundle on his back, and begin casually chatting with Woox.

“So? Have you obtained any news of Magic Artifacts?” Leylin wouldn’t let any chances of rapidly increasing his strength pass him by.

“Of course not!” Woox shook his head quickly, “The prices of Magic Artifacts have recently been driven up wildly. After all, who wouldn’t want to keep their life-saving items and would go sell them?”

Woox suddenly lowered his voice, “Buying so many ingredients and asking about Magic Artifacts, you must have received that news too, right?”

Leylin nodded his head, “I am preparing to take on a long-term mission so I can go out and avoid all of this.”

Woox nodded his head, “Avoiding it will be good, I will also leave in a few days’ time.”

“Even Woox, a Level 3 Acolyte with a Magic Artifact, has to flee!” The compelling feeling in Leylin’s heart only grew stronger, and after exchanging several more lines with Woox, he hurriedly bade farewell and left.

“The mission cannot be put off any longer, I have to leave immediately!”

Although it wasn’t necessary to register for a mission in order to leave,

there was still the hurdle of the academy guardians. Leylin still wanted to return to obtain relevant information on Magi, so he would naturally follow these regulations.

In spite of his rather average aptitude, his Potioneering talent had been acknowledged by even Kroft, so the academy would not keep him here to die.

Because Harosi had already done a sweep of the school's surroundings, the Mission Area managed to regain some of its former liveliness. However, Leylin realised that there were extremely few Level 3 Acolytes upon a closer inspection. Naturally, he knew what this was all about.

"They are all a pitiful bunch of people." Seeing these low-leveled acolytes splitting mission rewards and working hard to earn money to exchange for information, a pitying look surfaced in Leylin's eyes.

These were obviously the forsaken ones. Although a lone acolyte would be absolutely helpless against a Magus, they could still cause damage and even kill an official Magus if tens or hundreds of them banded together to execute a formation. That was their role here.

However, being in the vicinity of a Magus fight was extremely dangerous. It was already considered extremely lucky for them to have a 30% survival rate here.

Although Leylin felt pity for them, he still would not mention the news. He had already pushed the limits by hinting to his friends. If he were to publicise the news, even Kroft would not be able to protect him.

Leylin had a look at the missions on the wall; most of them had short durations and were also located very close to the academy. It seemed as though the academy had hidden all the other missions.

When there were few people around, Leylin took the opportunity to quickly head up to the counter.

"What kind of mission did you want?" The reception was a very skinny old man and seemed extremely amiable.

"The missions on the wall don't suit me at all, are there any special

ones? My name is Leylin Farlier, apprentice of Professor Kroft.” Leylin said in a low voice, tossing a small pouch over.

The old fellow hurriedly caught the pouch. After opening it, he smiled. “Of course there are!”

He took out a scroll from underneath the counter, “Look at this. The missions are all written there.”

The black-coloured scroll seemed to be extremely plain. Leylin opened the scroll and quickly skimmed through the missions written on it.

These missions all had a common characteristic. Their difficulties were not high, but their duration was extremely long. In short, the missions let those Magus potentials avoid the imminent calamity.

With the scan of the A.I. Chip, Leylin quickly decided on a mission.

“Investigate the wilting vegetation in Extreme Night Town. Mission duration: 3 Years.”

“I choose this one.” Leylin pointed to the investigation mission and relayed to the old man.

“Extreme Night Town is located in the Eastwood Province of Poolfield Kingdom. You will have to travel through almost half the kingdom before you reach it. Do you want to buy a map?” The old man smiled like a crafty merchant.

“Give me a map!” Although Leylin had a map of his own, it was always good to have another for comparison.

After spending two Magic Crystals, Leylin obtained a brand new map. Not only were the various provinces of Poolfield Kingdom highlighted on it, there was even a red line to mark his journey.

“According to the map, Extreme Night Town is on the eastmost side of Poolfield Kingdom, where the boundary is, and is very far from the academy. But the good thing is that it was near one of the Magi assembly points mentioned in the information Bicky sent, which would make acquiring information and news convenient.”

This was also why Leylin chose this mission.

“This is your exit pass.” The old man handed a red metal card to him. “Don’t lose it, it’s irreplaceable.”

“It seems like the academy has been very strict in governing any entries and exits lately.”

Leylin thought this inwardly, but he did not say anything aloud as he took the metal card.

After walking out of the Mission Area, Leylin went to bid farewell to Kroft, Bicky, and his other friends.

After all, he did not know how long he would be out for. Some things still had to be settled first. Having received Leylin’s hint, Bicky was already preparing to return home. As for Kaliweir and the others, however, their complexions were rather bad. They had come from Chernobyl Islands and with no place to return to, Leylin could only pay them lip service and console them.

Pushing his room’s door open and seeing the familiar setup, Leylin suddenly felt a little regretful.

“I wonder when I’ll be able to return back here.”

The spell books and ingredients that he bought today were all lying neatly in a corner, filling up two big chests.

After brooding for a while, Leylin moved his bed away to reveal some floorboards with very little dust on them.

“Farlier!” Leylin gently tapped a black dot on the floor.

Ka-cha! There was a mechanical noise, and the wooden floorboards slowly moved apart to reveal many potions stored in test tubes.

The amount here was at least 10 times more than what he gave to Neela!

If Woon saw this, his eyes might even pop out. Leylin smiled.

This was his private potions collection. With the A.I Chip’s help, his success rate has long surpassed what could be expected of others. He had

sold a small portion of them, but the bulk of them remained here.

“Let me count! 200 Strength Potions, 150 Antidotes, 180 Hemostasis Potions, and an assortment of other potions, their total value would be at least 3000 Magic Crystals!”

Leylin looked at these potions. They were his greatest asset and had always been locked away beneath his bed. The spell used to secure them was a little magic trick that all Level 2 Acolyte knew. Apart from the owner using their Spiritual Force to open it, any means of forcing it open would only cause the items locked inside to self-destruct!

“Now, with the chests of spell books and the other ingredients acting as the premise, I can move these potions out with very little inconvenience. I will also have to draw some runes on the outside for concealment.”

Leylin opened a small box that was covered in runes. Sponges, silk and other such materials were placed inside to prevent the potions from rolling and being ruined.

After spending almost half the night, Leylin finally managed to move all the potions into the box. He then covered the box with some ingredients and placed spell books around it.

“It’s already past six!”

After hearing his alarm ring, Leylin switched off the clock in his room.

He hurriedly washed up and brought the two big chests to the highest floor of the academy, where he bought 3 fine, sturdy black horses and a carriage. Leylin took a deep breath and rode the carriage to an elevator-looking mechanism.

“Take out your exit pass!” A man’s voice sounded. Leylin hurriedly took out the red metal card that he received yesterday.

Bang!

The elevator-like mechanism rose slowly and when it finally reached the top, the sound of gears could be heard.

The two stone doors opened, and a beam of resplendent sunlight came

shining in.

Leylin squinted his eyes, “The academy indeed has other exits. The original entry must be for people to use as a passage. However, the one here is for large items to go through.”

“Hyaa!” Cracking his whip, he urged the horse carriage forward. Only then did Leylin realise that his current position was at the back door, right behind the central graveyard that they had entered from in the beginning.

Afraid of being inconvenienced, he had told Bicky and the others that he was preparing to leave in the next few days, but did not specify an exact time. Hence, his departure was a quiet one.

Leylin gave the academy one last glance and then began his journey.

“Alright. Why does my luggage make it seem like I’m escaping from something, not the appearance of someone who is carrying out a mission?”

Leylin could not help but smile bitterly as he looked at the horse carriage he was driving and the heavy chests behind him.

“A.I. Chip! Bring out the map!”

At Leylin’s command, a map came into view. It was more detailed than the one he had gotten from the old man yesterday and had a route carefully marked out.

“Based on the map that I obtained yesterday, compute the most optimal way to travel! Requirements: Convenient and safe! Also, it has to approach as many Magi assembly points as possible!”

Heeding Leylin’s voice, a red line showing the route surfaced on the map. It was a little different than the one he gotten from the old man. There were several more bends and they were all in the vicinity of Magi gathering places.

“Let’s go!” Leylin followed the route that was given to him by the A.I. Chip and drove the horse carriage forward.

“A.I. Chip! Increase the detection area to the fullest!” Because it was an

individual trip, Leylin did not dare to lower his guard at the slightest.

[Mission establishing, beginning detection!]

The A.I. Chip loyally carried out its duties, and a 3D image of the vicinity was constantly projected in front of Leylin.

“The danger is the smallest when it is very close to the academy or very far away. The middle section is the most dangerous part of the journey!” Recently, the Magi protecting the academy had been cleaning up the area, but they were too lazy to pursue the enemies so it was likely that only the middle section would be littered with danger.

However, Leylin could only take a gamble. Harosi had also given them a lesson earlier, so he hoped that his journey would have more smooth sailing. After all, he might not be able to leave even if he wanted to, given enough time.

The horse carriage rapidly dashed on the road and the bird cries on either side of the road decreased from before.

As they got further from the academy, Leylin became more and more tense.

[Beep! Warning! Warning! A high-energy living organism has been detected ahead!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice sounded, and a red object was projected onto the screen. There were huge branches constantly spread across the area, with many red spots of lights also floating above it.

“This image? It’s a tree?” Leylin placed his hand into his waist pouch and reduced the speed of the carriage.

Chapter 43: Giant Tree Demon

With the horse carriage drawing nearer, the approaching scene entered Leylin's sight.

In the middle of the road, there stood a huge ancient tree.

Its green branches seemed to extend endlessly in all directions, forming a very large canopy with numerous vines hanging down.

On the enormous trunk, there were a pair of eyes and a mouth, and it looked like a human face. However, it had green eyes.

Surrounding the tree were a few winged creatures that were continuously flying around. Their skin was green and they were shaped like a human. They were also stark naked.

"Giant Tree Demon!" Leylin exclaimed. He laughed bitterly, "Didn't the academy clean up the area around the school already? Why is there still such a big fellow here?"

"An acolyte of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?" The huge tree spoke, and the winged creatures growing on its back also turned their eyes to him.

"I am merely a lowly acolyte who is preparing to leave. May I ask if you might give way for passage? I can pay a price for it!"

Leylin made a last attempt.

"Only death awaits any living organisms who try to make any futile attempts to leave!"

The giant tree let off a reverberating noise that even made Leylin's ear hurt. At the same time, a green vine was slowly lowered, and hanging from it was a human corpse. Its whole body was withered, and it was wearing the grey robes of an Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolyte.

"Big Brother! Stay behind and play with us!"

At this moment, a little sprite that had been flitting around the Giant Tree Demon flew over. To Leylin, it sounded like the very pleasant voice of a girl's, the sound of her voice intoxicating him. It was as if this voice

belonged to his most important person in this world. Gradually, Leylin began to feel that staying here might not be such a bad idea.

[Warning! Warning! The Host is affected by a demonic charm!] The A.I. Chip's voice prompted, bringing Leylin out of his hallucination.

"They actually charmed me!" Anger coloured Leylin's face.

"A.I. Chip! What were the scan results?"

[Shuger Giant Tree Demon. Strength: 5, Agility: 0.5, Vitality: 9.8, Spiritual Force: 3.5. Skills: Leech, Vines]

[Green Tree Sprite. Strength: 0.9, Agility: 2.5, Vitality: 9.8, Spiritual Force: 3.1 Skills: Charming on living creatures]

[Rumours have it that the Green Tree Sprite and the Giant Tree Demon have a mutual relationship. Normally, the Green Tree Sprite will seduce the target into the attack area of the Giant Tree Demon and then the Giant Tree Demon will commence its hunt!]

The A.I. Chip's voice sounded.

"The Giant Tree Demon's Strength and Vitality are too high, and its body is extremely huge too. There is simply no way to go around it!" Leylin's face was calm, "It seems like I can only fight!"

"The first will be you! You actually dared to charm me!"

[Critical point confirmed! Calculating wind power, adjusting trajectory!]

Leylin suddenly raised his hands, and revealed the hidden crossbow as he pulled the trigger.

Xiu! A black line streaked across the air and flew directly into the Green Tree Sprite from earlier.

The arrow pierced the right side of the Green Tree Sprite's chest, causing its eyes to tear. Green fluid, what appeared to be juice from the tree, was flowing out of its chest as it fell onto the ground.

"Dyrisse! That human actually killed Sister Dyrisse!" The enraged and shocked voices of the other Green Tree Sprites came from the treetops.

“You actually dared to kill my daughter!” The Giant Tree Demon let out a furious roar, its huge vines racing towards Leylin.

“Hyaa!” Leylin moved the horse carriage backwards, avoiding the vines.

“According to the A.I. Chip’s calculations, the Giant Tree Demon’s vine’s greatest attack range is only 20 metres! Its movements are also extremely slow, which is its greatest weakness!”

Leylin drew his cross blade and steadied the carriage before getting off.

“I only asked to leave, but since you refuse to listen when talked to nicely, it seems like a fight is the only means of resolving this!”

“You actually killed my lovely Dyrisse! I’m going to turn you into a shriveled corpse and hang you on my body for a hundred years!”

The Giant Tree Demon’s roots emerged from the ground and stood up like a human before chasing Leylin.

“At this speed! Are you kidding?” Leylin laughed loudly and dodged as he clashed with the Giant Tree Demon.

A dark green tree shadow whipped at Leylin, but he dodged by rolling away, easily evading the attack.

Pa! The green vine was like a whip, and it smashed a very huge hole into the ground.

Leylin slashed with the cross blade and chopped at the vines. The silvery white blade had made contact with the surface of the vine, but ended up leaving no more than a mark on it.

Leylin felt a huge force coming towards him, and a few black shadows appeared behind him.

[An attack has appeared from behind. The most optimal way is to turn right for 50 degrees and jump right!] The A.I. Chip’s voice sounded.

Leylin deflected a vine and turned to his right and jumped immediately, avoiding the sneak attack from the black shadow behind him.

“Great Father! We will help you!”

Roughly 7 to 8 Green Tree Sprites swooped down, and they even carried small bows in their hands that looked like toys. However, when Leylin saw the dark green liquid on the arrow head, his expression changed.

“There’s poison!”

He withdrew a purple potion from his waist pouch and viciously flung it at the Green Tree Sprites.

Ping-Pong! The test tube broke, and a gust of purple misty smoke rose, turning into the shape of a harpy. The harpy opened its mouth and let out an ear piercing scream!

“The Howling Witch Potion! I spent 20 Magic Crystals on it!” Leylin covered both of his ears. Although he had made preparations ahead of time, he still felt uneasy. As for the Green Tree Sprites, they had all fallen to the ground long ago.

Using potions to mimic the effects of a magic spell was the normal fighting technique used by a Potioneering Master. With Leylin’s current abilities, he could not brew the Howling Witch Potion yet, so this potion had been bought from Kroft instead.

Not only were these potions extremely expensive, they only had a one-time use, which made Leylin’s heart ache.

Taking advantage of the fact that the Giant Tree Demon and Green Tree Sprites were still under the effects of the Howling Witch Potion, Leylin hurriedly stepped forward and lunged at them with the cross blade.

“A few Green Tree Sprites were easily cut into two just like this.”

“The eardrums of these Green Tree Sprites are extremely strange and they are more sensitive towards sound waves. However, the Howling Witch Potion was obviously their bane!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed, and he stomped on a few more of the Green Tree Sprites who were lying on the ground until they were dead.

“Oh! No! Julie, Delia.....”

The Vitality of the Giant Tree Demon was extremely high and it quickly

recovered from the shock caused by the Howling Witch. Looking at Leylin torturing its daughters to death, it could not help but howl loudly. More of the vines came snaking over, and the remaining Green Tree Sprites were carefully moved and kept amongst the crown of the tree.

“That human’s spells are extremely evil, don’t come out!” The huge tree’s voice buzzed.

“A good chance!” Leylin’s eyes flashed, and he hurriedly chanted an incantation.

“Acidic Aqua Shot!”

A green-coloured sphere appeared, and with Leylin’s control, it avoided the vines and hit the left eye of the Giant Tree Demon perfectly.

Sssii! White mist rose continuously, and green thick fluid flowed out along with the cries of the Giant Tree Demon accompanying it.

After the white mist dissipated, the Giant Tree Demon’s left eye was completely gone, leaving only a charred hole.

“I will kill you! I will kill you! Hancus will kill you!”

The Giant Tree Demon trembled and the vines around it continuously weaved around, forming a net.

“Who are you speaking to?” At this moment, Leylin had already arrived at the bottom of the tree. Its crown completely blocked the sunlight, leaving only a huge black shadow.

While the Giant Tree Demon was howling, Leylin had already reached the trunk of the tree.

“Go and die!”

The Giant Tree Demon roared, and countless vines interweaved, forming a huge green palm, making a grab at Leylin.

“Goodbye!” Leylin laughed lightly and threw the remaining dozen or so potions at its trunk before taking flight.

Bang! A fiery flame rose up, engulfing the Giant Tree Demon whole.

What followed next was an even stronger explosion and black smoke.

“The effect is indeed excellent when using ten explosive potions together. Moreover, it is even more advantageous against a tree type Tree Demon like this!”

Although Leylin ran away quickly, he was still scorched by the flames from behind. Even the hair on his head was tinged and burnt .

“Ah!” The Giant Tree Demon screamed and howled in agony, falling to the ground with a crash, its body still set ablaze.

As for the Green Tree Sprites that were hiding in the treetop, they too were not spared and were all burnt to charcoal.

[Beep! The target has lost all signs of life!] The A.I. Chip’s voice sounded.

Leylin nodded his head and returned to driving the horse carriage, going around the Giant Tree Demon’s body.

Looking at the huge branches that were charred and the corpses of those Green Tree Sprites, Leylin suddenly thought of something and went up to extract some of their cells and remnants.

“Only one battle and I have already used almost half of my stockpiled potions!” However, the Giant Tree Demon and Green Tree Sprites combo is a threat to even a Level 3 Acolyte. Having an outcome like this is already considered not bad!”

Afraid of the arrival of reinforcements, Leylin hurriedly drove the horse carriage away, until the three strong horses were frothing in the mouth. Travelling as fast as the wind, he disappeared from the horizon.

Half an hour later, a grey-coloured owl swooped down and landed on top of a branch.

“Hankus is dead!” The owl let out a human’s voice.

“I know, I know!” Suddenly a human face appeared beside the tree branch, “It’s a Level 2 Acolyte, should we chase after him?”

“The plan has already begun! This stupid tree demon totally deserves it for dying here!” The owl pecked the feathers on its body.

“I’ll be leaving first!” Saying which, the owl spread its wings and flew up into the sky.

The human’ face turned silent for a while and then revealed a human-like smile, “Although it’s just a slave, one must still pay the price for killing my subordinates!”

The branch extended to where the Giant Tree Demon lay. At this moment, the fire had already been extinguished, only leaving behind some charred wood and Green Tree Sprite corpses.

Suddenly, a corpse jerked. It was actually still alive.

This Green Tree Sprite was already completely charred. Without any immediate treatment it would definitely lose its life.

The tree branch brought the Green Tree Sprite right in front of the human face, “Do you want to seek revenge?”

“Yes! For.....Vengeance, Doris.....Is willing to pay any price, even if.....It means the soul!” The Green Tree Sprite struggled to speak.

“Haha.....Very well!” The human face laughed loudly, “It just so happens that I have one potion from a previous experiment that ended up in failure. I’ll use it on you then!”

.....

Suddenly an opening appeared on the black-coloured tree, and it enveloped the entire Green Tree Sprite...

Chapter 44: Grey Stone City

Leylin was unaware that there were people planning to deal with him, so he carried on driving the horse carriage and travelling rapidly.

After the fifth day, when the surroundings started to show traces of human activity, he heaved a huge sigh of relief.

Although Magi generally view acolytes in the same way that humans viewed ants, it couldn't be denied that they originated from normal human beings.

Even though human experimentation was continued despite repeated prohibition, especially at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, all the Magi still chose to avoid large human communities. This prevented human casualties from piling up and inciting the wrath of other Magi.

"Once I reach the city up ahead, I can take a breather!" After 5 days of continuous travel, Leylin and his horses were all extremely exhausted.

At this moment, he lowered the speed of the horse and had a look at his surroundings.

There were now loosely spread fields on either side of him, and not far away was a giant windmill.

A crystal clear stream flowed beside these fields, and there were even some unknown species of fishes swimming in it.

Leylin suddenly felt relaxed as he viewed this scene.

"Serenity! The peaceful world of humans! I have not felt tranquillity like this in a long time"

"According to the map, the nearest city should be Grey Stone City!" Leylin looked at the indicator on the map provided by the A.I. Chip in his mind.

"This place is still too close to the academy. There may be a gathering point for Magi nearby, but it still looks far too dangerous to sell potions or ask about the latest news here."

“Moreover, I keep getting this ominous feeling!” Leylin’s brows furrowed as he looked behind him.

“Will the enemy let me go so easily after killing the Giant Tree Demon?”

[Beep! Transfiguration Spell analysis complete!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice sounded in his mind at that moment.

“That’s great!” There was an elated expression on Leylin’s face. He hurriedly read the introduction of the Transfiguration Spell.

[Transfiguration Spell: Rank O spell. Effect: Ability to slightly reconstruct the muscles of the face for an extended period of time. Consumption: 1 Spiritual Force, 1 Magical Power a day]

This was a Rank O spell that Leylin specifically chose for concealing his identity.

“Can it only change the outer appearance?” Leylin muttered to himself. “Many Magi can discern someone’s identity through the energy waves emitted by their Spiritual Force and some can even look right into their soul. Of course, these people are all official Magi at least. Right now, it’s most likely that I won’t meet with any of them.”

“A.I. Chip! Is it possible to optimise the effects of the Transfiguration and enhance the concealment of the energy waves from the Spiritual Force?”

Leylin asked.

[Beep! Establishing Spiritual Force energy wave concealment optimisation task, beginning analysis.....]

A dozen odd seconds later, the reply of the A.I. Chip sounded. [Able to optimise. Requires 7 Spiritual Force points. Time to completion: 14 days 5 hours. Supplemental data required: Spirit Research Studies, Obscure Runes.]

“7 Spiritual Force points? I can achieve that in a few years. However, the information on Spirit Research Studies and Obscure Runes will not be as easy to obtain!”

Research concerning the likes of spirits has always been the most mysterious aspect of the Magus World. Although Abyssal Bone Forest Academy has a reputation for being at the forefront of this field, the academy actually only had a few superficial theories. As for Leylin, he was just a Level 2 Acolyte so he did not have access to such information.

“The Transfiguration Spell should be enough for the time being.” Leylin gazed at his surroundings while driving the horse carriage hurriedly into the small forest nearby.

When Leylin reappeared a moment later, his appearance had changed completely.

His original youthful appearance had now become rather mature. Coupled with thick eyebrows and big eyes, he possessed a very common looking face.

His clothes had also changed into weather-beaten leather armour. The cross blade hanging on his waist buckle also looked older.

Leylin originally had a tall stature and looked well-fed. His body was already that of the typical adult before the change. Looking at him now, he seemed like a skinny yet experienced soldier.

Leylin walked to the side of the stream to get a glimpse of his reflection. “En! Not bad! Even my voice changed and I can modulate its pitch too.”

His voice gradually became coarser, a drastic change from the soft, immature and youthful one from before.

“I will temporarily enter the city in this disguise!” Leylin nodded his head and took out a leather bag. In it was some white powder.

“The Scent-Removing Powder of the Subterranean Blind Worm, just 1 gram can rid any living organism of their scent completely!” Leylin said softly.

“This should be the ultimate disguise method in the mortal world. My appearance and scent have already changed, so it won’t be easy to find me through regular means! But as for the Spiritual Force energy waves, I can’t do anything about them.”

Leylin looked through the horse carriage again. He then threw away any unnecessary items, only keeping the chest filled with potions and spell books. He also tied the chest filled with ingredients onto one of the two horses.

“Let’s go!” Approaching the last horse, which did not carry any burden, Leylin undid its reins and whipped it.

“Woo!” The black horse whinnied then ran in a random direction.

Subsequently, Leylin went back to the horse carriage and sprinkled a kind of red powder all over it. He followed that up by sprinkling the remaining Scent-Removing Powder over the two horses. He then mounted one of the horses and rode off.

Not long afterwards, black smoke appeared in the forest, followed by a blazing flame.

As he continued along the main road, more and more signs of humans could be seen. After an hour, Leylin saw the silhouette of Grey Stone City.

The walls of the city were short. Circular rooftops and sharp pointed grey buildings could be seen from the outside.

Beside these walls were armed soldiers who were patrolling the area.

“State your purpose.” The patrol leader wearing leather half-armour stopped Leylin.

“I’m a mercenary, and also a merchant!” Leylin smiled. He could see the greed in the patrol leader’s eyes.

Looking at the horse Leylin was riding and the chests behind him, the leader gulped down saliva. His eyes swept over the outfit Leylin wore. When he saw the cross blade hanging from Leylin’s waist, his expression changed to one of fear.

“The fee to entering is one bronze coin!”

“Here you go!” Leylin tossed over a brand new yellow bronze coin to the leader.

“You may enter! Remember not to wander around at night. If you are

caught doing so, you will be imprisoned!” The leader revealed a very unsightly smile.

“Thank you!” Leylin brought his luggage through the city gates.

“Leader?” A soldier was obviously unresigned.

“Shut up!” Didn’t you see how he was dressed? Being able to travel solo while carrying goods and arriving in the city unscathed means he is no regular person. Who knows, he might even be a Knight!” The leader growled in a low voice, “Next time, don’t find any trouble with these sorts of people!”

“It seems like no matter where it is, strength can let me pass through easily.”

Leylin rode into the streets of the city. He saw commoners on either side of the streets avoiding him in fear. When they looked at Leylin, their gazes held both a huge amount of fear and envy as they nodded in approval.

“The development of this Grey Stone City does not seem to compare to even one of the small towns from my previous life!”

Leylin estimated that, at most, there were only around 10,000 inhabitants in the whole of Grey Stone City.

As for its standards of living, they were even worse.

The pavements were made of yellow mud and riddled with coarse sand. A slight gust of wind would cause yellow dust to swirl in the air.

Most of the people on the two sides of the road were malnourished and only wore crude grey or black robes that even had a lot of jagged holes in them.

Along these streets were several fences enclosing cattle or sheep. Some small-sized livestock was even running around freely. Odour from the fresh layer of dung continually pervaded the atmosphere, with no sign of dissipating.

“Dirty, messy, lousy!” This was Leylin’s first impression of Grey Stone City.

“Let’s find a place to stay first!” The journey had made him somewhat weary.

Leylin did not manage to find any sort of inn even after searching for some time. In the end, he decided to spend some coppers in exchange for information regarding a place to stay from a local.

“Big Sword and Wine Cup. This is it.” Leylin looked at the words on the signboard and was a little speechless.

This family shop was situated somewhere to the west, where public order seemed to be more chaotic. Along the way, Leylin saw many drunkards and fights breaking out. A knife and dagger were even used in one instance. Despite this, there were no traces of security officers at all.

Pushing the door open, the smell of an inferior wine infiltrated Leylin’s nose.

“Come! Have another cup!” “Nice one, Jack!” A hubbub of noises constantly assaulted Leylin’s eardrums.

The interior was a pub of sorts. There were many drunkards guzzling drinks to their hearts content. Some were even half asleep and drunk, pawing the female hostesses and talking dirty.

“Sir! What would you like?” The bartender was a yellow-haired youth who looked like the soberest one in this pub.

“I heard that I could find a place to stay here?”

Leylin sat at the stool beside the counter.

“Yes! We are the only establishment in the whole of Grey Stone City that provides lodging services!” The bartender shrugged his shoulders, “However, it is nothing to be proud of. We do not have many visitors here all year round!”

“Give me a quiet room and take care of my two horses. How much is it?” Leylin looked at the big barrel behind the bartender.

“Give me your best beer here too!” Leylin tossed a silver coin over.

“Pleased to be at your service!” Very soon, the bartender brought a cup

with a handle to the table, “Honey Butter Liquor! Our best liquor here!”

Leylin sipped the liquor while listening to the bartender’s introduction.

In reality, many Magi did not like liquor since it could dull the senses. They preferred drinks that could raise their vigour.

Leylin did not drink often either. However, his curiosity was piqued so he wanted a taste. This Honey Butter Liquor was simply average, though. It even had a tart smell, which made Leylin feel cheated.

“Lodging here for a night would be 30 coppers and taking care of two horses, including their fodder, means an additional twenty coppers!”

Before leaving the academy, Leylin had already changed some pocket change to carry with him. So now, he very forthrightly tossed two silver coins over, “I’ll stay here for 4 nights first.....”

“Look! Such fine horses! This fur colour! This build! They are definitely more valuable than the battle horses in the city lord’s manor!”

A very annoying voice was heard.

Chapter 45: Reconnaissance

Glancing outside, Leylin's brows furrowed. His two horses seemed to have stirred up some trouble.

His lips curled into a sneer as he turned around and quickly left the pub.

Several local hoodlums were surrounding his black horses and sizing them up. Their gazes were marred with greed as they gazed at the spirited horses and the chests on them. One of them was actually in the act of impatiently untying the reins.

"Are you trying to take my belongings?" Leylin strode over.

He looked rather intimidating in his leather armour with his menacing cross blade hanging from his belt. But apparently it was still not enough.

One of them, a cross-eyed hoodlum, shouted at him, "This is undoubtedly the horse that I lost! How come you have it? You stole it from my family, didn't you! You damned thief!"

This gang of crooks thought that even though Leylin was an armed soldier, he wouldn't be able to take on their whole gang.

"That's right! Capture him and bring him to see public security!" The others raucously interjected.

The surrounding inhabitants surreptitiously loathed what was happening. But nobody had the guts to step forward.

"Let's go! He's alone!" Cross-Eyed drew a dagger from within his robes and led the attack.

Leylin sneered, "Looks like I get to loosen these creaky joints." He dodged, avoiding Cross-Eyed's piercing dagger attack. He immediately grabbed hold of Cross-Eyed's right wrist and shook it slightly. Cross-Eyed screamed in agony as the dagger fell to the floor.

"Argh! That hurts! What are you doing? Let go of me! My brother-in-law is a public security officer. He won't let you get away with this!" Cross-Eyed wailed in pain.

“Oh really? Public security officer? I’m so scared!” Leylin cried exaggeratedly, and then he twisted viciously.

Crack! The piercing sound of breaking bones was heard. Cross-Eyed fainted right away from the excruciating pain.

At this moment, Leylin’s physical power had already reached the Knight stage. Against these hoodlums, he naturally did not have to exert much effort.

“Boss! Boss!” The rest of the hoodlums shouted, but none of them dared approach.

Leylin smiled. He turned into a black shadow and dove right into their midst.

Bang! Crack! Argh!

The pitiful cries of the hoodlums and the gut wrenching sound of bones being crushed could be heard continuously. Leylin was like a black gust of wind. In a few moves, he knocked them all onto the ground, each one sporting a broken arm or a broken leg.

Leylin smiled amiably at them and walked towards the spot that Cross-Eyed had fainted at. He raised his foot and stomped viciously on the boss’s right leg.

“Argh!” Very soon, the pain jolted him awake. Both his eyes rolled around, and then he fainted once again.

“Take your boss away! You can call on me anytime if you want revenge. But if you ever do, it won’t be as simple as getting a broken arm or a broken leg!”

Leylin said to the hoodlums. In their eyes, his smile was like that of a devil’s.

After seeing these hoodlums scampering away, Leylin returned to the bar.

“At the least, he has the physical power of a Preparatory Knight!” The bartender groaned inwardly as he put on an even gentler and humbler

expression.

“My most respected sir! Is there anything I can do for you?”

Seeing the deathly quiet that loomed over the pub, Leylin couldn't help but inwardly smile with bitterness.

He did not want to be seen as a monster. However, he had brought many goods along with him, so what could he do if someone were to steal them when he was in the room? Although he left a Tracing Spell on his belongings, if the spell were to disappear, Leylin wouldn't even have a place to cry.

However, after Leylin displayed the strength of a Preparatory Knight, many of those who had some malicious intent towards him quietly retreated.

“Help me bring these chests to my room, put my horses in the stable and give them the best fodder you have!” Leylin said as he tossed another silver coin at the bartender.

“That hoodlum from earlier, what kind of background does he has?”

The bartender lowered his head, “Sir, you completely don't have to worry about it. He may have some shady dealings with a public security officer but nothing too serious, though.”

Having the strength of a Preparatory Knight means having access to a Knight's training technique.

Such people are either nobility or have some huge power backing them. A small city's public security officer will not dare to do anything at all.

“Take me to my room!” Leylin asked casually

The bartender intentionally took him to a room at the very back of the building, furthest from the pub. He took out a key and opened the room.

A ray of golden sunlight shone through the window into the room

The bed was in the middle of the room, and the bed sheets on it seemed to be very clean. There was a blue vase on the bedside table with some unknown wildflowers in them.

“It seems very clean. This place will be fine!” Leylin nodded.

“Here is your key, please keep it safe!” The bartender respectfully handed over a brass key.

Leylin took the key and sent the bartender away to take care of his horses. He unpacked the contents of the chests and ordered a steak to be sent to his room. After he telling the bartender not to disturb him, he closed the door.

As he closed the wooden door, he found the room’s noise cancellation effects to be rather good. The noises from outside were greatly reduced.

“My actions today were a little too eye-catching! I didn’t have a choice though. Grey Stone City is too small, the activities of any stranger will definitely arouse unwanted attention. However, it is still much safer to be behind city walls. People will, at least, think twice before casting large area-of-effect spells!”

“Furthermore, there is a 50-50 chance of the faction which sent people to block the path sending someone after me. It’ll be best if they haven’t. If not, I must definitely kill the next wave of pursuers so I can get away cleanly.”

Leylin was deep in thought, “The Spiritual Force energy waves and the spirit sent to follow the trail look like the doings of an official Magus. But this seems like a waste of resources. Afterall, who would send an official Magus to track down and kill a Level 2 Acolyte?”

“The greatest possibility is a Level 3 Acolyte with a Magic Artifact or some pet reared by a Magus!”

“I should recuperate and remain observant of any activities that are happening while preparing to get rid of the enemy! I also need to cast the Transfiguration Spell daily!”

Leylin thought as he brought a piece of the piping hot steak that he ordered to his mouth.

The steak’s flavour was not bad and Leylin, who was famished, ate it all up in the blink of an eye. When he was done, he asked the bartender to

clean up the mess. After the bartender left, Leylin hung a wooden 'Do Not Disturb' sign outside his door and set up a layer of energy particles to act as an early warning alarm system before falling into a deep meditative state.

Meditation is something a Magus has to do regularly. Although the increase in Spiritual Force from this is rather small, Leylin still persevered each and every day.

After toiling for over an hour, Leylin's head slumped and he entered into slumberland.

.....

Outside Grey Stone City, in the air above the scorched woods.

Pss Pss! A green coloured winged creature suddenly swooped down.

"Doris has finally caught a whiff of the enemy's scent!" The Green Tree Sprite Doris retracted its wings and stepped onto the burnt wood with its bare skin with a puzzled expression.

"This is where the scent ends." At this moment, the Green Tree Sprite no longer had the same appearance as before.

Previously, It had merely been the size of a human head. However, Doris was now as big as a 7 or 8-year-old child.

Moreover, the originally pretty face now had layer upon layer of warts marring it. It looked extremely repulsive.

Its mouth was filled with fangs, and its tongue constantly flickered like a snake's.

Its body now had many creases, as well as some strange looking scales.

Originally, Green Tree Sprites were a kind of living creature that represented extreme beauty. Now, no one would link Doris with the Green Tree Sprites.

Doris let out a yell filled with hatred, "Human, you won't be able to escape!" Its tongue flickered. It suddenly spread its wings and flew towards the additional horse that Leylin had released.

In the next two days, Leylin stayed inside, finally recovering his strength and Spiritual Force back to its peak.

“It has been two days already, and they still have not caught up! It seems like it’s not an acolyte chasing me or they would have used magic to sniff me out by now! It’s probably some slave or creature reared by the Magus!”

Leylin surmised. His movements had been extremely quiet these two days. The only noteworthy event was when the public security officer brought gifts as he paid Leylin a visit. The officer said that he was there to plead for his wife’s younger brother. He then tried to ask about Leylin’s past, but Leylin only deceived him and did not reveal any information at all.

Later, Leylin changed into black robes and pulled up the hood to cover his face as he jumped out of the window.

In a gloomy and dark alley.

“Sir!” “Sir, you’re here!” A few hoodlums, upon seeing Leylin’s black robes, immediately came forward to receive him.

“How is it? Have there been any strange happenings around Grey Stone City these past few days?” said a hoarse voice from under the black robes.

“I’ll speak first, I’ll speak first! In the nearby village, Auntie Sofia’s cow gave birth to a two-headed calf. The others all said that it was cursed!”

This was what the hoodlum, who pushed the others away, hurriedly said.

[The target’s blood flow has increased by 12.4%. His brain waves appear to be stable. Judgement: It’s not a lie!] The A.I. Chip intoned inside his head.

Leylin nodded his head and tossed a silver coin to the hoodlum.

“It’s my turn now, Uncle Hugo and his son disappeared in the nearby woods while travelling! And traces of a wolf pack have been discovered at the scene!”

.....

These were the hoodlums that Leylin had subdued over the past two

days. They were extremely convenient for gathering news.

At first, they tried to give false information to get the reward, but how could Leylin be fooled by an average human like them with the A.I. Chip to help him? He immediately broke the arms of the liar on the spot, shocking everyone present at the time.

Under the coercion of both money and the threat of violence, these hoodlums were very soon, faithfully reporting all the news happening in and around Grey Stone City.

“What did you say, human corpses were discovered? There were also traces of thick green fluids?” Leylin was obviously interested, “Speak clearly and this gold coin is yours!”

A skinny red-haired youth gulped down his saliva, “This is news I just heard. In the mill beside Messi Village, a few corpses were discovered. All the blood had been sucked dry. Everyone suspects this to be the work of a vampire. The city lord even sent several Knights to investigate!”

“En! Very good!” Leylin asked for the location again and realised that the area was very close to where he had last erased his tracks. He nodded his head and gave the gold coin to the youth. After listening to the rest of the news, he left the alley.

Chapter 46: Ambush

“Based on the latest news and the A.I. Chip’s calculations, the creature sucking the blood of others might be after me!”

“Moreover, it’s tracking me down by smell! Their numbers are unknown, but they shouldn’t exceed two, or there might actually be just one!”

Previously, Leylin got rid of his scent using the Scent-Masking Powder and changed his appearance before he entered the city. He wanted to use the mixed scents of people to conceal his. He would then gather sufficient information about the enemy before planning a counterattack.

Now, it seemed to have paid off pretty well.

“What a pity! My Scent-Masking Powder is almost used up, if not, I would have been able to leave here long ago!” Leylin surmised regretfully.

The Subterranean Blind Worm was a rather rare ingredient used by the Magi, and its price was never cheap. Leylin had spent quite a lot to obtain a small packet of the ingredient before refining it into a Scent-Masking Powder.

However, he had enough for only about 3 or 4 days. Within such a short period, he could not possibly run far. Once the enemy expands the range of detection, his traces would definitely be discovered.

“It’s better to settle this as soon as possible. If they chase me to my destination, then that wouldn’t do me any good!”

Leylin’s face became solemn.

Even now, the effects of the powder were wearing off. He was relying more and more on the complicated mix of smells in the city to mask his scent. Alas, the unknown creatures were still able to trace him even after all he did.

After returning to his room, Leylin casually sat on the bed and mentally called up the A.I. Chip.

“A.I. Chip! In accordance with the news obtained during these past two

days, simulate the enemy's movement patterns, and design a plan for killing them!"

[Beep! Establishing mission parameters, beginning simulation.....Map imported.....The Host's battle strength imported, analysis in progress....."]

The A.I. Chip's icy cold and unfeeling mechanical voice intoned within his mind.

The A.I. Chip was a tool specifically allocated to scientists in his previous world, so how could it have the intelligence or even emotions? Due to human rights concerns, they had forbidden A.I. Chips from manifesting intelligence and emotion as a core directive in its programming.

[Simulation complete. Host kills the target but will sustain light injuries. Success rate: 67.7%]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned while transmitting a large amount of information into Leylin's mind.

"Sustain injuries?" Leylin stroked his chin, "Are there any possibilities of killing the target unscathed?"

[Insufficient Data! Requires more detailed information on the target!]

"So it's like this," Leylin shook his head. According to the news he got from the hoodlums, the creature outside the city was already in an enraged mood and had started attacking the locals. At this rate, it would definitely charge into the city within 24 hours.

Although there was a mutual accord among the Magi to not disrupt the lives of the regular humans, there were still some who were crazy enough to do so.

If massive casualties resulted, and his identity was discovered, Leylin had to take responsibility for the collateral damages, aside from taking into consideration the creatures and the Magi behind them. This was a problem that he clearly did not want.

"67.7%, this is enough for me to take my chances! I also have confidence

in being able to retreat fully!” Vehemence marked Leylin’s countenance as he walked out.

The pub’s atmosphere remained as boisterous as ever. Upon seeing Leylin, the bartender went forward and bowed, “Sir, do you have any instructions?”

“Help me find a person.....” Leylin spoke slowly and made his request.

“No problem! Although there aren’t any mercenaries of the sort in this city, there are bandits here. I can contact them on your behalf.”

The bartender said, “By the way, Lord Roland, the city’s lord, sent men over. He wishes to meet you, sir!”

“The city’s lord?” Leylin nodded his head. No matter where a Preparatory Knight went, they would always be warmly greeted and received by lords. If Roland were to know of Leylin’s status as an acolyte, the treatment would be even grander.

“I have something on right now. How about we change to meeting time to the day after tomorrow?” Leylin enquired.

“Of course!”

“Also, the steak that you guys have here isn’t bad, send a serving of it to my room tonight.” Leylin instructed once again.

“As you wish!” The bartender smiled.

.....

The second day, late in the night.

A grey robed figure appeared in the charred woodland nearby.

“Investigate? What is there to investigate here? There aren’t any treasures here. Most likely this was caused by some careless farmer, which resulted in this area going up in a blaze!”

The grey robed man was quite skinny. His movements, though, were rather swift as he continuously rummaged through the piles of charred wood.

“Something isn’t right! These scorch marks were not done by normal flames!” The man’s brows furrowed. His experience as a bandit made him realise something obviously wasn’t right just by looking at the scorch marks.

“This..... Seems to be the doings of mysterious entities.” The bandit’s hair stood on end. As a member of the underground activities, he had only heard of these entities in myths. These stories emphasised the most important things about them: their mysteriousness, their cold-heartedness, and that they were not to be made enemies of!

“I’d better hurry and leave! If I knew this mission was linked to these mysterious entities, I wouldn’t have accepted it even if the rewards were dozen-fold!”

The grey robed man trembled and wanted to leave.

“I found it. The smell of my enemy!” At this moment, a hoarse and repugnant voice sounded from behind.

The bandit’s body shivered. He saw an abomination, the size of a child, floating in midair.

Its body was strewn with scales in a disorderly fashion. Its face was full of warts. From time to time, its snake-like tongue hissed out.

“I’m afraid that even the devil wouldn’t be as ugly as this!” The bandit thought as he jumped back by 5 metres.

“I should have thought of this before! I have actually turned into bait!” The bandit shouted.

“Don’t think about leaving!” Doris spat its tongue out and flew above the bandit, almost immediately with just a few flaps of its wings.

“We can talk about this! I have a lot of information on this mission’s principal!” The bandit yelled in despair.

“Die!”

Doris’s eyes were bloodshot. It did not care about the pleas and screams of the bandit. Immediately, it chewed on the right arm that was waving the

dagger about and fed voraciously on the bandit's blood.

A few minutes later, only the bandit's shrivelled corpse remained.

"A scent lingers on his robes! That damned acolyte is definitely in the city!" Doris squinted at the silhouette of the city walls.

Xiu!

A black arrow zoomed past. A boom was heard as it went supersonic, directly piercing Doris' chest.

"The last of the Scent-Masking Powder was wasted here. I even sprinkled some paralysis powder on the bandit's body. I don't believe that this arrow won't hit its target!"

From behind some tall shrubs, Leylin emerged wearing a leather armour and carrying the crossbow he had just used.

"Enemy!" Doris' face twitched. Its originally repulsive face now even showed veins bulging from it. It was a sight that would definitely make children cry.

"Even I wouldn't have guessed that the one chasing me was the Green Tree Sprite from before! This originally beautiful creature has now turned into something like this!" Leylin was a little shocked.

[Mutated Green Tree Sprite. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 4.3, Vitality: 3.5, Spiritual Force: 5.5. Abilities unknown!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned the readings and situation over.

"Its attributes were actually raised by this much! What an astonishing spell. However, its body's unstable condition can slowly be seen on its surface. It is unlikely to survive more than half a month." Leylin eyes flashed coldly.

"The enemy who murdered my father and sisters! Even if Doris had to betray its soul, Doris will avenge them!"

Doris howled as it yanked the arrow out of its chest. A puddle of green liquid gushed out of the wound.

The green liquid quickly covered the whole chest., A plant root could be

seen extending continuously and very soon the wound was suppressed.

“Go to hell!” Doris charged at Leylin in a green blur.

“It actually went through so much mutation that melee attacks are no longer effective?” Leylin nodded his head and snapped his fingers.

“Pa!”

Suddenly, a mud ball rose from the ground, blocking Doris’s path. Its contents were revealed to be crimson coloured potions.

Bang! A flame rose up. The accompanying heat wave even scorched the nearby vegetation.

The flames engulfed Doris and the crackling sound of something being barbequed was heard.

Hu! A green figure emerged from the sea of flames. Its body was scorched black. It even still had the fire burning on it as it charged towards Leylin.

[Target’s speed reduced by 67%!] Chimed the A.I. Chip.

“It was first affected by the paralysis powder, and then injured by the explosive potions. Even if it specialises in fire resistance, it will definitely still receive damage!”

Leylin’s face was calm. He threw away the crossbow and then drew his cross blade as he charged forward.

“Cross Slash!” The silver cross blade shone. This time, Leylin even circulated his ignited internal Knight energy. The sharp blade reflected a glimmer of light.

When the cross figure directly struck the Green Tree Sprite, immediately a pool of green liquid appeared.

Doris toppled, and Leylin stopped advancing. He looked at the cross blade in his hands and his brows furrowed.

The silver blade was already filled with bumpy spots where the various liquid from Doris’s body splashed.

“Even its bodily fluid has a strong corrosive effect? This cross blade is ruined!” Leylin felt a little rueful. This cross blade had been taken from a noble youth while in the travelling party. It was extremely handy to use, but he never thought that it would be destroyed here.

He threw away the cross blade. As he looked at Doris who was still trying to charge over despite the cross slash on its chest, Leylin quickly chanted an incantation.

“Umbra’s Hand!”

A black-coloured palm rose from Doris’ shadow. It grabbed hold of its ankles and kept them firmly on the ground.

Sssi Sssi! A layer of white mist rose from the black-coloured palm.

“Although Umbra’s Hand has a corrosive effect, it seems like, against the mutated Green Tree Sprite, it is still somewhat lacking! Leylin’s mind quickly worked out the situation.

“I’ll use you as a guinea pig for my newly learnt spell!”

“The sound of the azure thunder! Listen to my command! Descend to the mortal realm and strike my foes down!” (Byron Language) As Leylin voiced his incantation, silvery-blue lightning suddenly appeared in his hands.

“Go!” Leylin pointed his fingers and dazzling lightning flew towards Doris in an arc.

“Doris is not afraid of death!” At this moment, Doris stretched its hands forward, and its palm split open. From it, a tree root-like object extended out.

Xiu! The tree roots entwined and assumed the shape of a bow. A brown coloured arrow was already loaded onto it.

“Not good!” Leylin hurriedly dodged.

Chapter 47: Inconvenience

Leylin tried to wrest his way out, but an excruciating pain radiated from his shoulders.

[Host has sustained injuries from an arrow! Warning! Warning! High bacteria concentration on the arrowhead, recommend immediate disinfection of the affected area!]

“Damn it!” Leylin hurriedly pulled out the arrow and took a silver dagger from his robes. Gritting his teeth, he gouged out the flesh surrounding the wound.

He hurriedly retrieved a green coloured potion from his waist pouch and poured half of it onto the wound. The other half he emptied into his mouth. Only after hearing the A.I. Chip’s voice, [Crisis under control], did he heave a sigh of relief.

When Leylin was struck by the arrow, Doris had also been struck by the lightning, and had fallen down, crashing onto the ground.

At this moment, Doris’s whole body was charred and its wings were more than half broken.. One of her hands had vanished without any trace of it left behind, and her ankle was still grasped by the Umbra’s Hand spell. Her life force had dropped to a dangerous level. She could die at any moment.

“Revenge! My revenge!” Doris unconsciously kept muttering those words. Suddenly its eyes flashed coldly, and it bit off its own right leg.

Pa! The leg flew in the air. The Umbra’s Hand, which was holding onto the ankle, disappeared quickly as well.

“Let’s die together!”

Doris’s whole body inflated. Warts on its face vibrated. Her speed tripled as she charged directly at Leylin.

“Damn it!” Leylin pressed down on his shoulder wound and hastily retreated. At the same time, he threw out the last explosive potion.

Bang! An intense explosion reverberated.

Red flames and green liquid mixed together. It let off a dark green firelight.

Leylin rolled back several times before he could finally escape the blast radius.

At this moment, the surroundings were showered with a bunch of green-coloured bones and flesh. It was utterly repulsive.

“Eh?” Looking at the green-coloured remains on the ground, Leylin saw that a yellow fluid swiftly flowed out, continuously corroding the ground. His expression involuntarily changed, and he hurriedly inspected his body.

A few drops of thick fluid had unknowingly corroded his leather armour and opened several wounds on his body. Around each of these wounds was a patch of yellow that was beginning to numb that area.

[Host is suffering from an unknown secondary pathogenic infection. It has invaded the Host and is spreading at very rapidly. Recommend to take counter measures!]

“A.I. Chip! Scan the injury! Find a way to treat it!”

[Mission parameters established! Scanning.....]

[Beep! Treatment requires 30 grams of Human Head Bird, 500 millilitres of pink ink oil, 50 grams of Green Coconut Rock.....]

The A.I. Chip continued to list down a huge number of items.

“When would I have the time to buy these? A.I. Chip, generate the method for immediate suppression!” Leylin’s face darkened.

[Cauterising the wound with a flame will be effective in reducing the rate of infection!] The A.I. Chip responded.

“A flame?” Leylin ripped his clothes and casually picked up a burning branch as he placed the glowing flame on his wound.

Sssii! The sound of something being barbecue was heard accompanied by the smell of charring flesh. Leylin’s face contorted in pain.

Minutes later, the A.I. Chip pronounced the treatment effective. Leylin put away the fire and sat limply on the ground panting, cold sweat dripping all over his body.

“The enemy this time was extremely dangerous! Its resistance towards physical and flame attacks was extremely high. Its speed was also fast, and it had a poison attack. It seems to have been prepared specifically against me. If not for the A.I. Chip, I’m afraid.....”

Doris’ body fluids, containing the secondary infection from the arrow’s poison, were something that the A.I. Chip had not factored in. This made Leylin, who expected only mild injuries from the encounter, suffer such a wretched victory.

“On top of that, the explosive potions that I had prepared have all been used! I have to prepare more ingredients again!”

The past few battles, Leylin had highly relied on potions to defeat his enemies. However, the consumption was also huge, and he threw away close to a thousand Magic Crystals in value.

Fortunately, he knew how to brew explosive potions; if not, the cost would have skyrocketed even higher.

“Flame can only temporarily constrain the spreading of the pathogen. I have to buy the necessary ingredients to cure it completely!” Leylin looked at his charred wound, his brows furrowed as he gulped down another Strength Potion before picking himself up and heading back to Grey Stone City.

This was a huge disturbance. It was very likely that the city’s guards already sensed that something was amiss and would very soon send someone over to inspect.

Leylin endured the intense pain and sneaked back inside Grey Stone City. He stealthily took out his chest, not bothering to even bring his two horses along with him. After stealing a light brown coloured horse outside the city walls, he escaped under the cover of night. He was headed towards the Magus market located on the map.

As for the summons of the city lord, it was only natural that he ignored it completely.

.....

A dozen odd days later, on the way to Wolkan Province, a light brown coloured horse could be seen carrying two huge chests with a black robed figure astride its back. The horse was panting heavily as its four hoofs dashed across the ground.

“A.I. Chip! Show me my current status!” Leylin’s body which moved up and down with the horse’s movement, thought inwardly.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 1.3(2.5), Agility: 1.5(2.7), Vitality: 1.0(3.0), Spiritual Force: 4.1(4.4), Magical Power: 4.0. Status: Host is in a weakened state due to infection from the pathogen]

“Although the pathogen was inhibited, it has been a dozen odd days since then. My body is still in a weak condition. Only my Spiritual Force has increased again-this must be due to the result of constant meditation!”

Leylin looked at his stats and smiled bitterly.

Right now he had a completely new face. He had changed from an icy cold soldier into an extremely dashing golden-haired blue eyed westerner. His face, however, was devoid of colour.

“A.I. Chip! Project the mind map!” Leylin looked at the little information he had compiled superimposed onto an extremely detailed map.

“From Bicky’s intelligence gathering, there should be a gathering area for Magi nearby. There, I will be able to buy ingredients to treat this infection!”

Based on half a month of probing and simulation, Leylin surmised that the opponent had only dispatched Doris. Due to the official war with Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, nobody could be bothered with a lowly Level 2 Acolyte like himself. This was a great piece of news.

“I can probably even make inquiries about the current situation in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” Leylin made up his mind and left the main

road. He quickly found a spot, took out his tent and tools, and went about setting up camp.

“This area seems a little desolate. However, it’s only normal. Magus activities always steer clear of human communities as much as possible. Moreover, the radiation from a Magus is not something that regular humans can withstand.”

Leylin sprinkled some white powder around the tent area to prevent bugs and beasts from approaching. He then picked up a metal pan, poured some stream water into it, and lit a bonfire.

Just as the stream water began to boil, Leylin emerged from the trees and threw some mushrooms and other plants into it.

A moment later, after adding some spices and a few strips of jerky, a fresh fragrance of food permeated the air.

Leylin scooped a bowl for himself. The soup base was white in colour. It felt extremely comforting to drink it while it was hot.

Leylin sighed in contentment, “As expected, food that’s hot is the best. I could almost puke from constantly eating biscuits and jerky.”

The surroundings were dotted with wildflowers, and there was also the sound made by an unknown bird; its cry was much similar to that of a skylark.

“If not for my injury, this would have been perfect!” Leylin finished his meat broth, and adjusted his robes.

Under his clothes, a charred area of flesh had a layer of fine hair growing around it looking like hair on one’s head, which creeped people out.

“Over there, kill him!”

Signs of movement came from the trees nearby. Leylin’s brows furrowed. The shouting gradually became closer. He had a feeling that trouble had come knocking once more.

The bushes nearby split apart as a large guy protecting a nobly dressed

young lady rushed out.

When the large guy saw Leylin, he was shocked. He never expected someone had set up camp here. He said with a bitter smile at Leylin, "I'm afraid you'll also be implicated in this."

"Over there, don't let him escape!" A group of armed soldiers in leather armour rushed over. The leader wore an extremely beautiful chainmail.

"This outfit does not seem like something mercenaries or adventurers would wear. These people are most likely the personal retainers of some nobility which is even more troublesome!" Leylin's brows furrowed.

According to the A.I. Chip's scan, this large guy was obviously injured but still had the strength of a Preparatory Knight.

As for the pursuers, the leader was at Knight Level, whereas the soldiers behind were just a little stronger than the average human.

"Who are you?" The leader looked at Leylin.

"I'm just an innocent bystander, please continue and don't bother about me. I haven't seen anything today!" Leylin continued drinking his meat broth.

This casual vibe obviously made the private squad leader apprehensive since the large guy and young lady stood on the other side.

"Please save us! We are the descendants of Viscount Barrett. If you were to lend us a helping hand, I will definitely remember your kindness, and you will forever have the friendship of the Barrett Family!"

The young lady had a pair of mesmerising blue eyes. At this moment her face had a pleading expression that would most likely move the majority of noble male youths to impulsively swear to fight for her honour.

"Miss Lanning, the Viscount only asks for you to return. Please do not resist!" The leader told the young lady.

"That underhanded and despicable worm, he covets the possessions of my family and poisoned my father to his death. Even if I die I will not go back!"

The young lady poured all of her problems out in one go, sneaking a glance at Leylin from time to time. Although her movements were extremely well concealed, Leylin still saw through it.

“It seems like a struggle of inheritance by a descendant who has failed. By purposefully revealing this conflict, you want to drag me down into this huh?” Leylin shook his head.

“Viscount Sire has not done any of the things you claim. As for the inheritance, it is to be decided after the meeting with the nobles!”

The leader exclaimed loudly.

“I have proof on my body!” The young lady snarled.

“Quick, bring Missy home!” The leader seemed prepared to not negotiate any further.

A few of the commoner troops brandishing their knives and swords charged forward. The large guy roared and shielded the noble young lady.

The large guy’s strength was obviously not bad. Even though he was injured, he still made 5 of these soldiers pay with their lives.

The commoner troops went forward to chop and retrieve the head of the large guy. They then tied the screaming noble young lady up and only then did the leader who had been wary of Leylin give him a suspicious glance.

“It looks like we have been bothering you! Let’s go!”

The leader said as he turned around and prepared to leave.

Chapter 48: Market

“Really? Then why are you still wielding your sword?”

Leylin rose up slowly.

“The secrets of our Sire cannot be heard by anyone else!” The leader brandishes his sword slowly. “Moreover, the wounds on your body is the reason why you cannot lend a hand!”

“Cough cough.....” Leylin coughed feebly, “Accurate discernment! Seems like you have resolved to kill me today? I swear never to reveal a word of today’s matter!”

“Only the dead will keep secrets!” The leader shouted as he slashed at Leylin, his sword reflecting a snow white glint.

Leylin dodged in a rather miserable manner.

The leader’s expression became elated, the muscles on his body bulged, but just as he was about to charge forward, his complexion suddenly changed and he retreated several steps.

Behind him the soldiers and the young lady collapsed weakly onto the ground. Only their eyes could still move. “You actually poisoned us!” The leader snarled in shock.

“As expected of a Knight, you actually have the strength to withstand it!” Leylin nodded his head. Although with his strength now he could completely massacre this crowd, if there was a more convenient method available, why shouldn’t one use it instead?

The leader threw down his long blade and turned to flee. His speed was actually similar to that of a regular human.

“Under a poisoned state, and yet still having this speed. This is rather remarkable.” Leylin assessed indifferently.

He raised the crossbow, “A.I. Chip! Calculate wind speed and humidity! Adjust trajectory!”

Xiu! A black line pierced through the Knight’s chest. When he saw the

arrow that entered from his back and exited his chest bringing blood along with it, fell down with a look of disbelief.

Leylin strode to where the young lady was and towered above her. He stared down then tossed the contents of a bag of powder into her mouth. A moment later, the young lady stood up and stretched her limbs.

“You are..... a Magus?” The young lady looked at Leylin as her eyes filled with curiosity.

“No! Just a Potioneering Master. Shift them all over here and take care of them!” Leylin pointed at the fallen soldiers on the ground.

“Why don’t you do it?” The young lady pursed her lips, but she still shifted the paralysed soldiers over. She even moved the Knight leader and the large guy’s corpse over too.

Afterwards, the young lady’s eyes flashed coldly. She took out a dagger from her robes and stabbed all of these paralysed soldiers to death.

Throughout the whole process, Leylin watched on frostily, as the young lady stabbed her pursuers to death.

“You are definitely a Magus!” The young lady said confidently.

“As long as you help me with my revenge, I will hand over all my prized possessions to you. This includes the inheritance of a Magus. And I also will belong to you!”

The girl said as she unfastened her robes.

“Are you sure that there is a Magus inheritance in your family?” Leylin was rather amused as he asked.

“I swear it upon the honour of my family!” The young lady’s expression was staunch.

[Scanning in process! Target’s bloodflow is rapidly increasing. Unusual brainwave activity detected. Conclusion: Lie - 93.3%]

Looking at the conclusion of the A.I. Chip, Leylin shook his head.

“Why don’t you leave!”

“What?” The young lady was obviously shocked, “You don’t fancy me? I have a lot of prized possessions in my family, you can have anything you like.....”

“Could it be that you have read too many tales about knights in shining armour?” Leylin interrupted her speech.

“In a dense forest, an adventurer chanced upon a princess who was fleeing, and even helped her seek revenge. After overcoming a series of adversities. They triumphed over their enemies. The adventurer obtained the treasures, the love and the admiration of the princess. From then on, they lived happily ever after!”

Leylin recited it in a poetic, bard-like manner.

“It’s merely an empty illusory, full of false promise. At most, I’ll obtain your body and flesh then I have to help you seek revenge against a Viscount who has the backing of a huge faction. Do I look like an idiot to you?”

“But.....”The young lady was obviously still struggling.

“Get lost!” Leylin bellowed.

The young lady got up helplessly. A malicious and poisonous gaze flashed in her eyes, as she prepared to leave.

“Wait!” After the young lady walked for several steps, Leylin’s voice travelled over.

The young lady, looking gleeful, turned around.

Xiu! An arrow bore through the beautiful face of the young lady, and pinned her to the tree right behind her.

“Actually I could have let you go, but I saw a malicious and raging intent in your eyes!” Leylin gradually sighed. “To a person who had always protected and followed you, you did not even bother to bury his corpse before leaving. From this it can be seen that you are a brazen ingrate.”

“Moreover, to get your revenge, you contemplated some sort of reprisal against me. You will definitely announce this matter today to everyone.

Although I am not afraid of trouble, I detest such inconveniences very much.....”

“With these many reasons, why would I still let you go?”

Leylin pulled out the arrow and heaped the corpse of the young lady, who died with a grievance, together with the others.

From his bag he withdrew a yellow coloured potion, and poured it on the wound of a corpse. Sssii! Soon, the corpse putrefied into a puddle of yellow viscous liquid.

Leylin did the same thing for the rest of the corpses, destroying them all completely.

Moments later, the area surrounding the camp, had only a puddle of yellow water left. The large guy, the young lady and the pursuing soldiers, all of them, had disappeared with nary a trace.

These potions that could putrefy corpses, and the paralysis powder-all were Leylin’s inventions, done when he was bored. Although they do not have much effect against a Magus, or even an acolyte, it was still extremely effective against normal humans.

“Right now, the most important thing still is to get enough ingredients to treat my wounds. Anything else would just be an inconvenience!”

Leylin sighed, “What a waste of a newly erected campground.”

Leylin packed his things once more, and erased any sign of his existence, before disappearing into the woods.

.....

Nighttime, on the outskirts of a densely packed forest.

A figure, fully draped in black robes and even had on a conical bamboo hat to conceal its face, appeared.

“Lost Forest, it’s here!” Leylin took in his surroundings and compared it again with his map. Without turning around, he entered the darkness.

His leather shoes stepped on the dried twigs, which let out a Chi-Chi

sound. In the darkness, it sounded even eerier than normal.

“A.I. Chip, initiate area scan!”

[Beep! Slight illusionary field discovered! Field Effect: Regular humans who enter will be baffled, walk around in circles, and eventually leave unknowingly.]

“Indeed, no wonder there are tales of ghosts and demons in here. There are often news about humans going missing.” Although they were under the illusion, if any Magus met an unsuspecting victim, they wouldn’t mind having another sampling for their experiments.

“Hello! Acolyte! Welcome to the Magus Market!”

A black figure leapt down lightly from atop a tree and landed on a broken gravestone. Its eyes were gleaming with a dark green light.

Leylin walked closer, and discovered it to be a black cat.

“A Magus’ companion? A modulated organism? Or the result of a spell?” Leylin thought inwardly. He then bowed slightly.

“I am a wandering acolyte who heard that the market here is open to any Magus, is that correct?”

“Indeed, this market is governed by the mighty Walker Family. Moreover, it promises that every Magus who enters will be ensured safety and protection. Of course, that is only within the perimeters of the market!” The black cat licked its paws as it let off a human-like snigger.

“Then, I wish to enter!”

“All acolytes have to pay a fee of 1 Magic Crystal! It’s free for all Magi!”

“Here!” Leylin nodded his head, and tossed over a low grade Magic Crystal over.

The black cat caught it in its mouth, turned around and while leaping away from the gravestone, it made a beckoning gesture towards Leylin.

Leylin shrugged and followed it.

The further in they got, the denser the white mist became. However

there was a road under their feet that seemed to be specially constructed before.

“We’re here!” Along with the black cat’s voice, the mist ahead dissipated and boisterous clamouring sounds could be heard. This made Leylin feel like he had returned to his academy’s Trading Area.

The only difference was that the people here were all tightly wrapped in cloaks or grey robes, not revealing any piece of their skin at all.

Occasionally, some did not bother about concealing their identity, which made Leylin broaden his horizons.

In here were some Marine species who had scales on them, and Half-Beastmen who had fur on their necks. They were different from Beastmen, since they were rather a loving and affectionate of species. There Magi could be produced too, and Leylin even saw a Magus with the head of an owl.

A large number of these people also exuded the energy waves of acolytes, but Leylin felt that their aura reeked of blood.

“Although the acolytes in the outside world do not have a firm foundation compared to those in the academies, they are able to advance in an environment where resources are scarce. Their experiences must be bountiful, and they even may be more adept at fighting!” Leylin’s heart sank.

The potions in his hands were almost consumed, and right now he was at the most a stronger acolyte amongst the Level 2 Acolytes, having barely enough strength for self-preservation. If he were to reveal the potions he was carrying, these acolytes would swarm around him like crocodiles and rip him to shreds.

Lowering his head, he found that the black cat had vanished completely.

“Sir! Do you need a guide? I only ask for 1 Magic Crystal!” A rather skinny little boy ran over.

He had the energy waves of a Level 1 Acolyte coming from his body., Even though his face was extremely thin, his eyes were very lively.

“Bring me around to have a look!”

“Alright!” The boy was in glee as he hurriedly ran in front of Leylin to lead the way.

“This market is under the protection of the Walker Family, a well-received family by both wandering acolytes and Magi alike. Look over there, the wooden hut in the centre is a shop personally set up by the Walker Family.

The small boy tried his best to fulfil his duties as a guide.

“So these are other people’s stalls?” Leylin pointed at the acolytes displaying their goods on the floor. Their goods were much better than those in the academy, and of course, more of them were counterfeits too.

“Yes, you only need to settle the procedures in the central hall, pay the fees, and then you’ll be able to obtain a place to set up your stall!” The little boy nodded, “Sir, is there anything that you’d wish to sell? The Walker Family also provides consignment services.”

“I’m not in a hurry now. Bring me to the centremost area for a walk!” Leylin said.

In this Magus Market, he discovered several official Magi with activated defensive force fields surrounding them. These are existences he could not fight against right now, so he was more cautious than usual.

“This is the smithy! It specialises in selling weapons! Next to it, with the sign which has a test tube on it, is a Potioneering shop. On the far left is an auction house. From time to time, they have a few premium goods!” The little boy was extremely familiar with this place.

“An auction house? Then will they have the information about Magic Artifacts?” Leylin casually asked. He was a little more interested now.

Chapter 49: Recovery

“Magic Artifact?”

The little boy shook his head, “That is a very precious item! Last year the auction only sold one low-grade Magic Artifact. There were even official Magi present who joined the bidding.....”

“So it’s like this. Take me to the weapons shop!”

Leylin followed the little boy to where the blacksmith’s smithy was.

“Hey! Big Bearded Old Man, I brought you some business!” Once the little boy entered the forge he started shouting loudly.

“I’ll be right there!” The shop owner did indeed have a thick and bushy beard. He was not tall, but the muscles on his arm were extremely hard and gave an impression of power.

“Greetings, esteemed guest! I am the owner of this smithy, please call me Black Hammer!” The shop owner introduced himself.

“I need a cross blade!” Leylin spoke of his intentions. Previously, he had ruined his cross blade when fighting the mutated Green Tree Sprite. He now wanted a better quality one, something that wasn’t easy to obtain.

“A cross blade huh, follow me.” Black Hammer undid the wine flagon hanging on his waist and took a sip. The scent of alcohol wafted out.

“Oh! Haven’t I told you to tone down your drinking?” The little boy frowned as he pinched his nose.

“Hiccup.....Edgar, you are still a child and cannot appreciate the absolute bliss of fine tasting wine!” Black Hammer shook his head and led Leylin to a wooden shelf.

“My shop’s finished cross blades are all here. Please take your pick. Of course, if it isn’t satisfactory, you can have one custom made, as for the price.....”

When he spoke of the price, Black Hammer’s words were extremely clear. He did not seem even a little bit drunk.

Leylin casually scrutinized the cross blades on the wooden shelf. These blades obviously already went through the rigors of war. Their silver surface emanated a bloodthirsty aura.

Leylin casually picked one up. It had an intricate yet sturdy feel that tingled into his palms that felt rather heavy.

“A finely smithed steel blade. It even has a metallic star smelted onto it. The hilt is wrapped in black silk, to prevent it from slipping through one’s hands.....” Black Hammer described the item.

Leylin nodded his head and placed the cross blade back on the yellow wooden shelf, then picked up another one.

This cross blade’s exterior was a little darkened. It let out a solid reliable aura.

“A blade made of alloy. It has been modified before. Able to resist corrosion and flames!”

“Oh?” Leylin was a little moved, “Can it deflect a Magus’ spell?”

“Of course not!” Black Hammer shook his head immediately. “To resist a spell, there should be runes inscribed on the blade at the very least. Moreover, it has to be compounded using precious materials from an Alchemist. Such a blade would already be considered a Magic Artifact, and wouldn’t be displayed in the open like this for sale.....”

“My apologies, I have been too greedy!” Leylin shook his head.

Picking up the black blade, “I want this, and prepare another 20 crossbow bolts for me.....”

“Alright, the price is.....” Black Hammer’s eyes shone. He did not bother to drink his wine anymore.

When Leylin and the little boy walked out of the weapons shop, Leylin hung the cross blade from his waist, at the same time he took a Magic Crystal and tossed it over to the small boy.

“This is your remuneration for today! I wish to walk alone now!”

“Alright! Have a good day!” The little boy was extremely delighted and

put away the Magic Crystal before trotting off.

Leylin stood rooted to the spot until the little boy could no longer be seen. Only then did he turn back to the stalls he had first went in, where the goods were lying on the ground.

After browsing for a bit, Leylin visited every wooden shop found in the central area. Only then did Leylin walk into the shop with the test tube sign.

“Sir, how may I assist you?” spoke a young male staff who wore a fashionable western style suit.

Leylin looked at the potions on the shelves. These sparkling potions radiated various colours. The transparent glass counter also displayed various precious ingredients.

“It seems like this shop’s goods are a little better than fatty Woox’s!” Leylin nodded his head in approval.

“I will need the feathers of a flamingo, eyeballs of multi-tailed owl, feather from a Human Head Bird, Pink Ink Oil, Green Coconut Rock.....”

Leylin hurriedly listed his items. These were all ingredients needed to treat his injuries, to make explosive potions and formulate other basic potions.

The staff quietly listened until Leylin finished speaking before bowing and saying, “My apologies, but may I ask if you are a Potioneering Master?”

“I have a little bit of knowledge in the field!” Leylin’s facial features were concealed by the hood of his the cloak. Thus, the staff was unable to discern his expressions.

“Our Walker Family wholeheartedly invites you to join our family. The terms we offer are the absolute best amongst Magi families of equal ranking” The staff bowed even deeper.

Leylin did expect this a little. Potioneering Masters were a difficult breed to raise. Plus, Magi cannot do without potions so Magi Families have

always tried to recruit them by offering generous remuneration.

He would definitely not be able to conceal his identity as a Potioneering Master if he were to buy raw ingredients. However, as long as no one discovers his talent, he wasn't afraid of letting them know. After all, as long as he was not found out, others would not know if the person standing before them was a Potioneering Master or an acolyte.

"I will give this some consideration. Do you have the ingredients I listed earlier?" Leylin said with a raspy voice.

"We do have 2 flamingo feathers. As for eyeballs of the multi-tailed owl, we still have a pair left. However, it has been around for 3 years, so some of its medicinal properties have spoiled a little. As for the feathers from a Human Head Bird, Pink Ink Oil, Green Coconut Rock, we have them here, also....."

The staff seemed to remember every item in the shop from memory and blurted them all out.

Leylin nodded his head. A Magus' main cultivation is Spiritual Force. After advancing, their brains will also develop. Hence, all Magi were intelligent people. As for Leylin's conjecture, when Magi have advanced into a higher realm, their brains would even be comparable to the processing abilities of the A.I. Chip.

"I want all of them, name your price!" Leylin nodded his head.

"The total amounts to 157 Magic Crystals!" The staff smiled.

Leylin nodded his head and took out a small box, which he had prepared earlier, from his robes. After opening, one could see that it was densely packed with cyan-coloured potions.

"Look, these are all strength potions!" Leylin took out the strength potions and lay them in front of the front of the staff.

Strength potions were one of the basic potions. In fact, most of the Potioneering acolytes chose to brew it first. After seeing this, the staff became evidently disappointed.

But he quickly recovered his composure and began to inspect.

“30 Strength Potions, I can give you 130 Magic Crystals for them,” the staff said.

Leylin approved silently. If he were to sell these at Woot's, he would have gotten 120 Magic Crystals at most. Prices outside were indeed higher, but it was more dangerous too.

“Okay!” Leylin counted another 27 Magic Crystals and handed them to the staff.

“Bring me the materials I ordered!”

“Okay, give me a moment!” The staff put away the potions and Magic Crystals before swiftly running to the back.

Leylin waited for what seemed like another dozen minutes before the staff returned with a small wooden chest, which he placed in front of Leylin.

“These are the goods you requested, please inspect them!”

Leylin opened the small wooden chest. It was compartmentalised using wooden trays, where various ingredients were placed on them. There were colourful feathers, green-coloured rocks, and various coloured powders.

Leylin fingers traced the various ingredients, “A.I. Chip! Inspect.....”

After the A.I. Chip indicated that all the ingredients were up to standard, only then did Leylin keep the wooden chest. He then rose to leave the Potion Shop.

“What I’m selling is only the most basic of Strength Potion, and to gather the ingredients is already this complicated. Even I cannot guess the uses of these ingredients completely. They will definitely not be able to as well.”

Leylin hid the small wooden chest beneath his robes and circled around a few times before he slowly left the market.

“The most important thing is, my trades only cost around 100 Magic Crystals. If the Walker Family was stirred because of this paltry amount, then their reputation would have long since gone bad!”

On the way, he increased the A.I. Chip's detection area to the maximum. Only after confirming that no one was following him did Leylin leave the Lost Forest.

Ever since the earlier incident, Leylin moved camp. Right now he sheltered in a cave. As for its previous owner, a Black Bear, it had long since become Leylin's dinner.

Bang!

Leylin stacked a few large boxes together to form a simple experiment table. Then, he placed his apparatus on it.

"I am finally going to be rid of this damned pathogen!" Leylin gritted his teeth, "Every day I have to cauterise this wound. With the limitations of my Vitality and Strength, I've had enough of it!"

Leylin picked up a green-coloured rock with the shape of a leaf on its surface.

This was a Green Coconut Rock, a rare half plant half mineral commodity.

Smashing the Green Coconut Rock apart, Leylin took the Pink Ink Oil and heated it. When it began to bubble, he added the grounded Green Coconut Rock powder.

Sssii! As the powdered Green Coconut Rock was poured onto the Pink Ink Oil, a hissing sound was let off.

The Pink Ink Oil turned green in a moment. It released a strangely fragrant odor.

[Potion successfully brewed!] Upon hearing the A.I. Chip's confirmation, Leylin nodded his head slightly.

He stripped all his clothes off. All sorts of burns and scars could be seen littering his body. His shoulder and stomach each had an extremely horrifying scar with tufts of hair growing around them.

"Qiesiter - Kesi!" Leylin murmured an incantation.

The green-coloured potion in the test tube immediately boiled, and

continued to evaporate, making the smell in the air more concentrated.

Sssii! As if having been granted a life of its own, the hairs around Leylin's wounds started climbing out and wiggled their way into the test tube.

"Wu!" Leylin gritted his teeth and let these hairs make their way out as they pleased.

A dozen minutes later, Leylin's wound no longer had black hair around it. As for the test tube, it transformed into a ball of hair.

Leylin's expression remained apathetic as he wiped off his cold sweat. He lit a feather on fire and threw it onto the ball of hair.

"Boohoo....."

Green flames rose and mimicked the crying sound of a female, which was rather similar to Doris' voice.

Many strands of hair tried to escape, but they were trapped by Leylin within a ball of milky white substance. They had no option but burn into oblivion.

Chapter 50: Ellinel Market

After the green flames died down, what was left behind was a pile of white dust.

Leylin's expression was extremely solemn as he lightly dabbed on the dust. Hu! The dust swirled in the air, transforming into a female's face, "Enemy! Enemy!"

"This pathogen contains the poison of an aggrieved soul, no wonder it is so strong!" Leylin shook his head, took out a green-coloured potion, and splashed it onto that female face.

Sssii! The human face rapidly turned into white mist, vanishing completely into thin air.

"A.I. Chip, initiate scan!" Leylin ordered.

[Beep! Scan complete. Result: Pathogen in Host body has been completely eradicated!]

Hearing the A.I. Chip, Leylin's face finally revealed his relief.

He stretched lazily and touched the scars on his body, "It's a little unsightly! If Neela were to see these, what would her expression be like?"

After rummaging through the big chest, he found a potion and downed it.

A dozen minutes later, Leylin's superficial layer of skin quivered and forced out the layer of scars and dead skin replacing them with glossier skin.

"Once I got rid of the pathogen, healing the scars on my skin is just a matter of a few potions!"

Leylin touched the scars which were extremely faded now, "I estimate that after one more dose, these will be completely gone!"

Leylin then took out the remainder of the unfortunate black bear's paw and rewarded himself with a good meal.

While eating and drinking until he was full, the sky outside had already

dimmed. Leylin lit a small fire inside the cave and began to think of the journey ahead.

“Doris has finally been disposed of. There aren’t any pursuers remaining so I can rest easy while travelling!”

“The academy’s mission isn’t really important. After all, I have 3 years to complete it. I wonder how the academy is faring right now?” Although Leylin could enquire about news concerning Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in the market today, he did not dare to.

Who knows if there might be spies around. If he were to expose his identity, wouldn’t that be like walking right into a trap?

He could only wait till he journeyed through half the kingdom before he could safely begin making inquiries.

Such a huge matter will definitely be a hot topic at Magi gathering points. He only has to be careful not to expose any information about himself.

“All of these could be dealt with later, what’s important is to hurry and change all the potions into Magic Crystals. It is simply too inconvenient to lug all these huge chests around!”

Leylin patted the solid hard wooden chest. He thought of the miserable brown horse days ago that seemed like it would die anytime. He smiled bitterly.

“I can’t go to the Walker Family’s market anymore. After all, I have just sold a number of potions there!”

Leylin mentally called up the map and located his current position.

“From the academy to Eastwoods Province, I have to travel through 5 other provinces. I can sell potions along the way. At best, I can only sell potions until Jersha Province.

On the map, the Jersha Province was midway to his destination. There were two more provinces separating Eastwoods Province from it.

If he were to sell his potions all the way to Eastwoods Province, wouldn’t

that mean giving away his itinerary and purpose? Leylin wouldn't be so foolish as to do that.

Although he sold his goods along the way, others may not be able to discover it. After all, the trades done every day were numerous. Leylin, however, would rather be a little more cautious in safeguarding his tracks.

As for Jersha Province, it was in the central region of Poolfield Kingdom and was accessible from all sides. Other people would not be able to guess Leylin's destination at all.

"En!" Anyway, there is still time. If it's necessary I can reroute to further locations. In any case, I must be careful never to reveal my identity!"

Leylin looked the points marked as Magi gathering spots and entered into deep thought.....

Two odd months passed.

On a path to Jersha Province, a sturdily built black horse carrying a wooden chest and a black robed man could be seen cantering along.

The black robed man had bright red hair, and was extremely handsome.

This was naturally Leylin in disguise.

Ever since that time, as Leylin journeyed, he found some Magi gathering points or some small scale trading sites time to time, where he sold the potions he brewed.

As he only sold a few each time, he did not attract the avarice of other experts. Occasionally, some foolish acolyte blinded by greed would waylay him, but they were completely not his match at all. The most dangerous instance was when a Level 3 Acolyte brought a group of other acolytes to surround him. Still, Leylin managed to evade them with the help of the A.I. Chip's detection capability.

Through these trades, he acquired a few precious materials, and many books on specialised Magi knowledge, greatly enhancing the data bank of the A.I. Chip.

In these past two months, he finally recorded all the Shadow and Dark

Element spell models he purchased previously. He then completely obliterated the contents of the book.

This lightened his luggage tremendously.

After selling a huge portion of his potions and getting rid of those bulky spell books, Leylin could fit all of his belongings into one chest.

According to his projections, he could simply travel with a knapsack after selling the remaining potions.

“I have underestimated the popularity of potions. Right now, I have amassed over 2,000 Magic Crystals. If not for purchasing information and other miscellaneous items, I might have gotten over 2500 Magic Crystals!”

Leylin stretched his hands and felt around his robes. A sack of hard texture travelled to his hands. He could not help but smile.

“Fortunately, there are high-grade Magic Crystals in this Magus World. One piece can be exchanged for 100 ordinary Magic Crystals. Otherwise, I would have a problem carrying all those Magic Crystals.....”

“A.I. Chip, stat update!” Leylin ordered.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte and Knight. Strength: 2.7, Agility: 2.8, Vitality: 3.0, Spiritual Force: 4.6, Magical Power: 4.0. Status: Healthy] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“En! Strength and Agility increased. This is the result of continuous stimulation of my internal Knight energy. After it stabilises, I can begin to gradually take on the next phase of Knight’s training. This should raise all my stats to at least 3! As for Spiritual Force, it only increased a little. This was the only return I got after a number of life and death situations. Magus training, as expected, is only going to get more and more difficult!”

Leylin sighed and mentally projected the map again.

On the huge map, Jersha Province was in the central region of Poolfield Kingdom. There were many small Magus families here.

Although this was the capital of a regular human kingdom, it attracted

all sorts of travellers, many wandering Magi, and even criminal Magi.

These Magi, because of their radical opinions, or some other matter, were exiled from their previous association, faced with persecution, or even put up on bounty lists. They turned into wandering Magi, often making them very dangerous people.

“In Jersha Province, it just so happens that there is an extremely huge Magus market controlled by the Redbud Family, one of the three big families supporting Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. I will definitely be able to obtain the latest news here!”

In these past two months, Leylin had secretly made inquiries about the various news related to the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. However, the information he got were all rather vague. He only knew that it was at war with some factions to its west. As for its opponents, and how the academy was faring, everything was extremely hazy.

“We’re here, Ellinel Market. I’ll sell my remaining potions and ask about news of the academy before resuming my journey.”

Leylin decided.

.....

In a tiny village’s ruined wharf.

“If not for the intelligence report, I would never have believed that the first Magus market in the Poolfield Kingdom would actually be hidden underneath a regular human village”.

As Leylin scanned the village’s surroundings, a lifeless atmosphere greeted him.

“The Magus market should be below here since there are signs of occasional radiation emanating from it. The villagers above are also definitely sickly, where some might even die suddenly. How would they be able to flourish? I’m afraid after a dozen or so years, this village would become another ghost town!”

Leylin adjusted the grey robes on his body and covered his facial

features, before coming to the entrance of a hut made of bricks.

The corroded door let out a dull noise as Leylin knocked lightly.

“Who are you?” An icy voice sounded from inside.

“I am a wandering acolyte, who wishes to have a look at the market!”

Creak! The large door opened and revealed a black robed figure.

Leylin was shocked; he felt murderous intent oozing from the black robed figure. This may be a very obscure concept but if one killed too many of their kind, they will definitely be different from others. The feeling that this black robed figure gave Leylin was that many experts of the same level died in his hands.

“As expected of a large market, even the guard is so fierce!” The black robed figure emitted the energy waves of a Level 3 Acolyte. He even carried a one-time use magical item. It could not escape the A.I. Chip’s detection though.

“No matter if it’s your first time or not, I will enumerate the rules. Any fights inside the market will be deemed as a provocation by the Redbud Family.” The black robed figure said icily.

Only then did Leylin notice the Redbud insignia on his sleeves.

“I understand!” Leylin nodded his head.

“Alright, the fee would be 1 Magic Crystal!”

After Leylin paid the entry fee, the black robed figure tapped lightly on the fireplace, and steel machinery rumbled. The fireplace swung to the right revealing a flight of stairs going downwards.

“Even the style is reminiscent of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” Leylin shook his head.

After entering the tunnel, the fireplace swung shut, and the passage dimmed once more with only a few lamps dimly glowing in the depths.

Leylin descended the stairs. After he felt he had gone a dozen metres underground, a huge cavern emerged.

The market was extremely huge. It was the size of several football fields. The ceiling was studded with some kind of stalactite that made Leylin wonder if they were natural.

In the middle of the market, buildings built using grey rocks were lined up in a row. Surrounding them was a circle of wooden huts. As for the street stalls, they were actually rather sparse.

Magi and acolytes wore robes of various colours; white, black, and grey-robed people could be seen stepping in and out of the shops.

Leylin began to understand the rules of the Magus World a little better.

Normally, official Magi would either wear black or white, and acolytes would wear grey. White represented the factions that were more peace loving, for example, the healing arts and the like. As for the black robes, they leaned more towards combat, and their dispositions were rather strange too.

Of course, these are the conventionally attired ones. There were also some Magi who wore various odd looking costumes that were rather bizarre.

Chapter 51: Lowian's Teachings

"Sir, do you need someone to show you around? I only charge 1 Magic Crystal!" Clamored the little boys and girls who crowded around Leylin.

"No need for that!" Leylin immediately refused.

After visiting a lot of markets, he found out that these guides did not require that much payment. Some of the families controlling these markets even provide free guides to help patrons move around.

The first time he entered a market, he gave a little boy a Magic Crystal. This was a huge deficit for him.

As for ordinary markets, they were considerably smaller. Circling for a few times would be enough for anyone to become familiar with the place. There were even signs around. So under normal circumstances, patrons do not require guides at all.

Leylin casually strolled inside the market. Later, he walked towards the largest Potion's Shop.

"Greetings Sir!" A white-bearded geezer smiled and bowed.

"I wish to sell a batch of potions. Their prices may be a little high!" Leylin was extremely direct.

"Please follow me!" The old geezer was startled. He immediately brought Leylin to a small booth at the back.

After closing the door, Leylin felt the energy waves generated by an isolation spell formation.

"Our shop extends confidentiality towards our guests. Moreover, we also employ the best safety measures....."The white-bearded geezer smiled as he explained.

"Not bad!" Leylin nodded his head, being able to avoid the crowd was extremely beneficial to him.

There were two sofas within the booth, and between these was a small wooden table with two hot piping drinks on it.

“Please have a seat!” The geezer gestured.

Leylin sat down and reclined on the sofa. He lifted the cup and sniffed lightly, “Powder of Tillan Beans with black pearls added, very beneficial for an acolyte’s meditation!”

“Your achievements in Potioneering have left me speechless!” The old geezer’s eyes widened in shock.

“Thank you. I have been inside an experiment lab for a year until now working on something important. Please appraise these potions for me!”

Leylin handed over a sack to the old geezer.

The old geezer opened the sack, and immediately cried out, “Eh?!”

In the sack was the remainder of Leylin’s potions, each and every one of them glowed resplendently.

“Please wait a minute!” The old geezer took out a monocle and placed it over his eye.

After what seemed like half an hour, the old geezer looked a little exhausted and rubbed his temples after he put the monocle away.

“37 hemostasis potions, 45 antidotes, silence potions.....These potions are all of good quality and have been preserved well. I can give you 900 Magic Crystals for them!”

“Very fair!” Leylin gently nodded his head.

The old geezer then stored the potions for safekeeping and counted out 9 high-grade Magic Crystals which he handed over to Leylin.

“Sir, you must be a Potioneering Master? Please keep this; you will be able to enjoy a 10% discount on items and services in our shop. We can also offer a higher price for other potions you may have.....”

The old geezer said as he presented a purple card to Leylin with both hands.

Leylin glanced at the card and then pocketed it swiftly, “I’ll keep that in mind!”

The old geezer then sent Leylin off. As they bade farewell, Leylin casually asked, "As you know, I've just finished my experiments. Are there places where I may inquire about the latest news on the Poolfield Kingdom?"

The old geezer stared blankly for a while before answering, "If you wish to learn some secrets and the latest intelligence, Gandor's Grocery Shop would be your best choice. Although his temper is a little wacky, but he's the most informed....."

According to the old geezer's direction, Leylin came to Gandor's Grocery Shop.

As he entered, the things inside the shop were very untidy, and various items were lying around. There were even many that the A.I. Chip could not identify.

One thing stood out though, no counterfeit products were inside. This piqued Leylin's interest.

"Who?" A voice sounded from behind the counter. Following which, a geezer, who appeared as if he was on the brink of death, popped out from behind it.

"The geezer from the Potion Shop recommended this place to me. I wish to gather the latest intelligence regarding the Poolfield Kingdom.

"Same old rules, only after buying an item in my shop will you will be able to obtain information from me." The half-dead geezer lips did not move but a mysterious voice could be heard from him.

"Alright! I'll simply pick anything I fancy!" Leylin wanted to pick an item at random.

"No can do, it is I who will choose for you!" The half-dead geezer sniggered.

"No wonder business is so bad here!" Leylin rolled his eyes, "Go ahead then!"

The half-dead geezer rummaged through a shelf at the back of the shop. The wooden shelf made a creaking sound. It looked like it would collapse

any moment. Leylin was even worried about him since the shelf looked like it could collapse at any moment.

“I found it!” The half-dead geezer took a black coloured scroll from the shelf.

On this scroll were characters that Leylin did not recognize at all. Its corners were extremely frayed and looked like mice had chewed on it.

“This is a fragment of The Great Magus Serholm’s spell. I’ll sell it to you for only 1,000 Magic Crystals, an absolutely worthy deal, what do you think?” The half-dead geezer eyes glittered.

“This could even be the inheritance of The Great Magus Serholm! Perhaps, you could advance to high-level Magus after you buy it.....”

Leylin was left speechless as he took it in his hands.

“A.I. Chip! Scan!”

[Beep! Confirmed: Carbon dating, document comparison analysis shows this page is composed of human skin! Belongs to: Lowian’s teachings: 89.5%, Blue Cobalt rare book: 56.5% and Serholm’s writing: 21.7%]

“There exists something like this? A.I. Chip, what is the strength of the geezer opposite me?”

[Estimated Level 3 Acolyte, based on energy wave emissions, Confirmed: he is in a process of reconstructing his physical body. Degree of similarity: Zombification: 86.6% and Aggrieved Soul Transformation: 45.6%]

Leylin pretended to scrutinize the page for some more time before looking up at the geezer, “This seems like a remnant of the Lowian’s teachings. You actually lied to me?”

“How can this be?” The half-dead geezer hurriedly lamented. A flash of shock crossed his eyes, which immediately changed into a cajoling expression.

“Even if it is the Lowian’s teachings, this assuredly belongs to Sir Rookmanst, a Rank 2 Magus, 2 years ago, this same fragment was sold for 700 Magic Crystals. So, how about I sell it to you for that price?”

Leylin shook his head, “ Lowian’s teachings were written in an advanced-coded language. Only an official Magus will be able to decipher the code. Ordinary acolytes will definitely not be able to.”

“Furthermore, although the contents were written in code, but their page numbers were written in the Angema language to make it more obscure!” Leylin pointed to the page number at the bottom.

“Look at this, it’s only page number 12! According to <Life of Rookmanst>, the first 30 pages of Lowian’s teachings contained only records of his experiments, and insights penned when he was still an acolyte. Only when he turned into an official Magus, did he chance upon an inheritance and he began to display a terrifying talent! As for this overpriced page, the page number should at least be beyond 100 to be believable!”

“Transactions among Magi are based on the premise that the exchanged goods are equal in value. This derelict page of yours is not worth 700 Magic Crystals. According to my estimate, 70 is its highest asking price.” Leylin concluded.

“Yikes.....Hahaha! Today’s weather isn’t bad!” The half-dead man tried putting up a front, but finally gave in to Leylin’s unwavering gaze.

“Alright, I never expected to meet a very erudite scholar! Take your pick then!”

“No need, I came here to gather intelligence! I’ll just buy it at a fair price.” Leylin held onto the black coloured page and placed 7 middle-grade Magic Crystals on the table.

Although the coding on this derelict page could only be deciphered by an official Magus, Leylin wished to give the A.I. Chip a shot at breaking the code. After all in terms of processing ability, Leylin was confident that the A.I. Chip’s ability was much better than even an official Magus’, despite this being his first attempt at such.

“Alright! Alright! What do you want to ask?” The half-dead geezer sprawled on the table and ate the Magic Crystals one by one. Leylin was rather shocked by this scene.

“I require a lot of energy. If you were to give me another 1,000 Magic Crystals I would’ve definitely completed my physical body’s restructuring.....” The half-dead geezer’s expression was resentful.

Leylin shook his head, “Tell me news about Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!”

“Abyssal Bone Forest Academy! You are an acolyte there?”

“Only some interest in the happenings over there. Besides, I don’t want to suffer any collateral damage from the war!”

“Alright!” The half-dead geezer did not ask anymore. “I graduated from there too. Now Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s situation isn’t that great. I heard that Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle teamed up against Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in this war.....”

The half-dead geezer spoke endlessly.

Half a day later, Leylin walked out from the grocery shop with an extremely miserable face. “I never thought that the situation would already be this bad. It seems like I need to stay out here longer than I expected.”

According to the half-dead geezer, the reason for the war had long since been forgotten. What mattered was that Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle were factions on the same level as Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Their alliance placed Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in a disadvantageous position. Right now, the academy could only rely on its defence spell formation to resist.

“A.I. Chip, how long will it take to decode this page?”

Leylin felt the derelict page of the Lowian’s teachings. Although it was made from human skin, Leylin still wrapped it well and kept it within his robes.

[Beep! Analysis in progress! No comparable code found in the databank. Will require conjecture.....Estimated time to completion: 93 days 13 hours!]

“3 odd months? I can do that!” Leylin stroked his chin as he casually strolled around the market.

What he had told the half-dead geezer earlier was the truth, but Leylin simply wanted to gamble upon the A.I. Chip’s abilities. Even if it did not work out, the information the half-dead geezer had provided was worth at least 20 to 30 Magic Crystals.

Although the page number of the Lowian’s teachings’ derelict journal page was pretty low and contained mostly information for acolytes, for a Level 2 Acolyte like Leylin, it still was pretty useful.

There may even be some of Rookmanst’s meditation techniques, experiment records or even some discovery of resources. If he could discover them, Leylin would benefit immensely.

In any case, the processing capabilities of the A.I. Chip were very impressive. Leylin had not even used half of its capabilities, just letting it sit idle for most of the time. He might as well use this downtime for deciphering the code.

Chapter 52: Slaves

Leylin's footsteps did not stop until he walked out of Ellinel Market.

The exit was at the side of the village and was actually beneath a stack of hay. It was also guarded by a black-robed man with the Redbud insignia.

"A.I. Chip! Initiate area scan!" After walking out of the village, Leylin ordered after walking out of the village.

A faint light blue screen was projected in front of Leylin's eyes, clearly identifying a sneaky figure tailing him from behind. In the whole light blue projection, the red dot was extremely obvious.

[Target's identified. Strength estimated at Level 2 Acolyte. No Magic Artifact detected!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"Only a Level 2 Acolyte huh? Seems like it's not any huge faction, but only an avaricious dog after some wealth!"

Leylin's eyes flashed coldly, "If I didn't have other plans"

The Level 2 Acolyte tailing Leylin seemed to be extremely patient. Only after Leylin was a dozen miles away from the vicinity of the market did he make his sneak attack!

Whoosh! Suddenly two balls of mud rose beneath Leylin's feet, turning into two yellow-brown coloured hands that tightly held down Leylin's ankles.

A dagger suffused with purple light immediately stabbed towards Leylin's back.

"Success!" yelled the sneak attacking acolyte whose face was flushed with joy. He belatedly realised that Leylin had mysteriously dissolved, turning into a vine with thorns that coiled around his body.

The thorns mercilessly dug into flesh. The acolyte could even feel the vine come alive and was greedily feeding on his blood.

"Damn! It's a golem! What is this spell! Shadow Embodiment? Leeching Vines?" As the acolyte lost huge amounts of blood, he increasingly became

muddleheaded.

“Ah! You can’t do this! Please.....Please spare me.....”

The acolyte pleaded. Alas, the immediately the vines squirmed and sealed his mouth.

Bang! The spell’s effect disappeared, and on the ground was left the shrivelled corpse of the acolyte.

Against his enemies, Leylin was never merciful.

.....

The second day, Leylin once again visited the market.

“Sir! Do you need a guide? I only require 1 Magic Crystal!” The noisy little kids were still clamouring at the entrance.

Today Leylin had changed his clothes. And to conceal himself even further, he changed his appearance too.

Although his previous face was a fake, there was no guaranteed special spell effect that could penetrate and see through the cloak.

As for energy waves and the sort, Leylin was not too worried about it. Yesterday he deliberately avoided official Magi, so his energy waves would never be recorded.

To capture the energy waves generated by Spiritual Force, an official Magus has to make enough preparations beforehand. There wouldn’t be any Magi who had nothing better to do.

“You’ll do!” Leylin randomly picked a little girl.

“Thank you! Sir, I am extremely familiar with this place!” The little girl was a little overjoyed. She wore a white coloured dress and looked to be somewhat thin.

After tossing a Magic Crystal to the girl, Leylin said slowly, “I wish to enter a higher leveled area!”

His voice was modified to sound different from the day before.

“A higher leveled area? You mean.....The second level?” The little girl

asked a little hesitantly.

“Of course!” This was the point to the experience Leylin patiently amassed after coming to the market many times. These markets weren’t very huge, and Leylin always felt that something was missing. Certain precious resources were absent in these markets too. These little children guides most likely stood here waiting for powerful customers to bring them to the more concealed areas.

“Since you know about the second level, then you should also understand that if you don’t have an item worth over 1000 Magic Crystals or a guarantor, you will be denied entry.”

“Naturally I do! Lead the way!” The little girl raised her head, yet she was unable to discern the expression behind Leylin’s cloak. She could only lower her head and lead the way.

“Although there should be many official Magi on the second level, there is no choice. The two ancient formulas, Azure Potion and Tears of Mary, plus many of their ingredients have not been collected yet. If I can’t even find it here, biggest Magus market, then there is completely no chance anymore. I can only look for substitute ingredients!”

Leylin’s expression was rather dark. As he journeyed, he sold potions along the way and did his utmost to collect all of the ingredients of the two ancient potions. However, he was met with little success so far. Ellinel Market was the second largest gathering of Magi after Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. If he couldn’t find what he needed here, then Leylin was completely helpless.

Leylin followed the little girl. They arrived at a rather deserted alley.

She used a stone found on a wall corner of the wall to knock.

Bang! The alley’s walls shifted, revealing an underground passage.

“Here it is!” The little girl said softly, as if very afraid.

“Lead the way!” Leylin followed the little girl and they continued walking downwards. Several minutes later, they reached a door at the end of the passage.

Two Level 3 Acolytes wearing blood red robes were standing guard. According to the A.I. Chip's scan, they carried Magic Artifacts on their bodies. This slightly startled Leylin. At the same time, he was filled with curiosity towards the market behind it.

The little girl went forward and exchanged a few words with the two acolytes before walking back to Leylin. She curtsied, "Most respected Sir, I can only lead you this far!"

When she finished speaking, she hurriedly ran back up the flight of stairs disappearing into the darkness.

"It seems like there is something in this premium market that terrifies her!" Leylin thought indifferently as he walked towards the two acolytes.

"An item of proof, or an item worth at least 1000 Magic Crystals!" A red robed acolyte said icily. Standing before them, Leylin could somehow sense the wails of aggrieved souls hovering around them.

"What terrifying people!" Leylin thought inwardly. He tossed over a small sack containing 10 high-grade Magic Crystals.

The red robed acolyte opened and looked before tossing the sack back to Leylin. He then opened the door behind him.

Leylin walked in unhurriedly. Only after the large door closed behind him, was he inclined to observe the area in front of him.

This field was most likely beneath the market earlier. Its surface area was smaller, only having a street traversing it.

From time to time Magi walked past. Since it was not very crowded, the distance between passersby was rather far. There were almost no Level 1 Acolytes here. Level 2 Acolytes too were very few. Most of the people here were Level 3 Acolytes. Their bodies all radiated strong energy waves. Official Magi too were rather common.

.....

Leylin inhaled deeply and walked down the street.....

Half an hour later, Leylin walked out of a stone hut with a Potion sign,

his face had obvious signs of joy.

They had the main ingredients Kroft mentioned, as well as the rest of the ingredients, "It is indeed the largest market!"

The main ingredients of the two ancient potions, Azure Potion and Tears of Mary, were the most important. As for other ingredients, they were easier to acquire. Being able to buy them all at once exceeded Leylin's expectations.

Leylin spent more than half of the 1000 Magic Crystals he prepared to purchase these ingredients. He was still satisfied, though, and felt that the expense was worth it.

Putting away the ingredients, he anticipated that he had to find a safe place and begin brewing the potions. His mood was rather good. He even felt inclined to stroll around a bit.

The goods here were obviously of a higher grade than the market above. Leylin even saw a low-grade Magic Artifact dagger for sale.

However, the price was at least 400 Magic Crystals, which immediately made Leylin stop feeling lucky.

Suddenly, Leylin heard noisy clamouring voices travelled over leaving Leylin a little startled. He tracked these voices and made a new discovery.

"Slave market?"

What Leylin saw in front of him was a large fenced area. Many stark naked slaves were standing behind fences. Their faces showed either numb indifference or extreme humiliation as they let the acolytes and Magi take their pick.

"Just right! I'll need a few slaves myself!"

Leylin wanted to stay in Extreme Night Town for around 3 years. He could not manage many things by himself. Originally, he planned to recruit a few guards and servants when he got there, but a few high-grade slaves were now conveniently available.

After all, they were all raised or controlled by Magi. This lent their owner

better security and assured functionality.

“Sir! What do you think? Do you need a female slave for your bed?”
Look, these are all good quality ones, some are even of the nobility.

A slave trader looked as Leylin walked forward. The slaver hurriedly patted the ample breasts of a group of female slaves behind him, which carried a rippling wave effect.

Behind him were a dozen utterly naked noblewomen. Their skin was extremely smooth, and their figures were quite vivacious. Even if they were slaves, their aura of nobility could not be stifled.

“How did they end up here? I mean, as nobles, wouldn’t it be troublesome?” Leylin was a little curious.

“Please don’t worry, these are all nobles who fought and lost in battles. Their fiefdoms have long since been usurped and their families destroyed. They are legally under the death sentence. There will absolutely be no trouble at all.

The trader smugly explained.

Leylin looked behind a noblewoman who was being dragged away. There was obviously a noble young lady standing there. He could not help but think of the young noble lady he met previously in the woods. If her revenge failed, who knows if she’ll be sold at this place too.

“How are they? Buy a couple, and it’s up to you how you play them! After you’re sick of them, you can use them for your experiments. Even if they die, it’s not a problem!” The trader did his utmost to entice him.

Leylin shook his head, “I wish to purchase a few guards, preferably of Knight level. Also, I will need a few assistants for my experiments!”

“If it’s like this!” The trader stroked his chin, “What you’re looking for are premium slaves, and their price will be extraordinary! Of course, those who are able to enter here are customers with strength. Please follow me!”

Leylin walked behind the trader and saw many slaves. Some of them were well-built youths while some were still children. They were all staring

outside from behind the fence looking fearful. From time to time a few Magi pointed at them or even walked forward to inspect them.

Leylin even saw a group of Magi surrounding a few Beastmen and Marine Species slaves, bidding over them.

The trader pulled Leylin to a large tent, and called a fatty over, "This is my friend, Dylan. Right, he has some premium goods."

Leylin did not know what Dylan whispered to the trader, but after a while, the trader laughed heartily as he walked away. Only then Dylan smile towards Leylin and said, "Most respected guest, I have already understood your requirements! We just received a new batch of premium slaves, please follow me!"

Chapter 53: Subordinates

Leylin followed Dylan into a large white-coloured tent.

A smell of incense inside permeated the air. It masked the musky unwashed odor of the slaves and various bodily excrement. Despite this, the atmosphere was much better than outside.

The slaves in here wore some thin clothes that could somewhat cover their private areas.

Dylan brought Leylin to a few extremely muscled guys, “They were all raised and taught by a Knight! How do they look? I dare say these definitely meet your requirement!”

Leylin nodded his head and walked towards a large bald guy, “A.I. Chip! Stat Scan!”

[Beep! Target’s Strength: 3.1, Agility: 2.8, Vitality: 2.9, Spiritual Force: 1.5. Status: Dowsed in neurotoxin!]

The other Knight Level slaves’ stats were more or the less similar. Leylin observed that their pupils were widened and somewhat dispirited.

“The mind of these Knights seem to have been affected by something.....”

Dylan hurriedly smiled apologetically, “Knights’ resistances are always higher than normal, to meet the various needs of our customers, we are unable to use standard marking to control their consciousness! They have all undergone constant brainwashing and corporeal subjugation. Furthermore, they were controlled by drugs, turning them into high-level servants. Although they might not be as bright as regular Knights, they are still able to understand some simple commands.

Branding of the consciousness was what official Magi used to control their servants. However, it was somewhat ineffective if acolytes were to use it.

Dylan obviously noticed Leylin’s strength before offering this batch of goods to him.

“It’s not bad, what’s the price?” Leylin asked.

“100 Magic Crystals each!” Dylan replied.

Leylin nodded his head and picked out two with the best stats. After paying the Magic Crystals, he received a scorpion-like organism from Dylan.

“The sting of this Desert Scorpion contains a unique poison. These poisonous secretions from this scorpion were used on your two slaves. If they do not take the antidote produced by the scorpion in 10 days time, they will die horribly! Of course, this should be used as a last resort to control them. After all, during their training, they have already been brainwashed to obey their Master’s commands! Now, the lives of these two Knights are yours!”

Dylan respectfully handed the box containing the scorpion’s sting.

Leylin nodded his head and kept the box. “Also, I require a serving maid, one who can take on the role of assistant during experiments.....”

As Leylin walked out of the market, two Knights wearing armour and a delicate yet pretty maid followed behind him.

The maid’s eyes were limpid and she wore a black cotton dress. According to Dylan, this maid received extensive training since she was young. She was more than capable to take on the role of an assistant for simple experiments. She met Leylin’s requirements rather well. Moreover, she had taken the Mandara Flower’s essence, which could counteract the radiation from a Magus. This kept her looking youthful.

The cost was her life span, which was shortened to only 30 years.

“Ellinel Market did pretty well in designing this level. We can actually choose our exits freely. However, this is a service only premium customers may enjoy!”

When Leylin and his servants appeared, they were no longer at the small village. They were at the outer walls of a city.

This was a premium service provided by the Ellinel Market, but there

was also a fee for it.

If this helped him avoid more trouble, it was worth it for Leylin who was not very strong right now.

“Master!” The Knights and the maid knelt and saluted him.

“En!” Leylin nodded his head indifferently, “Do you have names?”

The two Knights looked at each other, and their eyes dimmed eventually, “No, please grant us one, Master!” The maid too shook her head and indeed seemed rather pitiful.

“You will be called Greem! He pointed to the larger Knight. “You will be called Fraser!” This was another Knight.

“As for you!” Leylin looked at the beautiful maid, “Anna will do!”

“Thank you for granting us names Master, we will loyally engrave it in our hearts!” The three subordinates knelt on the ground and kissed Leylin’s shoe.

“Alright.” Leylin waved his hands and got them to stand. He then looked at his surroundings.

It seemed to be a small forest, and there was even the silhouette of a large city ahead. It was, at least, ten times bigger than the city he was in earlier. The entrance had carriages and carts going in and out. It seemed to be flourishing.

“Greem! Go buy a horse carriage in the city, I’ll wait for you here!” Leylin tossed a black purse to the larger Knight.

“Also, buy some goods for our journey, as well as some clothes!” Leylin instructed him.

Even since he destroyed his chest of spell books and sold all his potions, His remaining possessions amounted to over 3000 Magic Crystals all in all. His luggage too was reduced by more than half. He could fit all of them in a knapsack. As for the camping items he used previously, he already destroyed them before going to the market to save himself the trouble of going back.

“Yes, Sir!” Greem took the money purse and bowed slightly as he was about to leave.

“Also, don’t call me Sir from now on, Young Master will do!” Leylin touched his youthful face and was somewhat stumped.

“We obey!” The three of them knelt on the ground.

Seeing the figure of Greem leaving, Leylin suddenly turned and asked Fraser, “Do you have any inkling of the time before you became a slave?”

Fraser had brown hair and blue eyes, and his body was littered with scars. Moreover, his age could not be determined, but he seemed to have had an abundance of experiences and suffering.

“I can’t remember anymore! Every time I try, I feel a splitting pain in my head.” Fraser touched his forehead as if trying to recall something. His visage crumpled with pain.

“So it’s like this!” Leylin surmised that it could be the influence of some drug or spell that was only effective on normal humans. Right now he could probably break it if he spent some time on it, but he absolutely had no intention of doing so.

After all, his objective was to acquire subordinates, not to seek trouble. Those who were captured as slaves were the losers of battles and wars. If they were to recover their memories and seek Leylin’s help, what should he do then? Even if they don’t, who knows if they will continue remaining loyal to him.

“How about you?” Leylin looked at the shy Anna.

Anna’s skin was extremely white and gave off a milky glow. It made Leylin impulsively want to touch her. Her face too was extremely exquisite like a doll’s.

“Anna has been raised by a merchant since childhood, and was eventually sold to Sir Dylan.....”

“For a maid like her, it was naturally more convenient to groom her at a very young age. Moreover, she had to learn various knowledge, and

grooming of etiquette. Only then would she deserve the fondness of those higher ups. Of course, she had to take some lessons in pleasing men. Anna looked at Leylin who was still shrouded in the cloak, unable to discern his countenance. However, based on the voice alone, deduced that it should belong to a younger person. She could not help but blush.

What lessons have you taken before? How much do you know about the Magi?"

"I have learnt <The Science of All Living Things> and <Herbs Identification>, but.....but only some preparations of simple ingredients. Anna is not an acolyte. For experiments that require the use of energy particles, I am powerless in that area.....My apologies, Young Master!" Anna's fingers clenched her dress and seemed discomfited.

"That's not bad at all." Leylin was actually satisfied.

He had many secrets. Letting an outsider join his experiments was inappropriate. Helping him with basic preparations was already good enough.

If he wanted a Magus assistant, he or she must be at least acolyte level. This level of a slave is extremely expensive and was always riddled with problems too.

Although he did not see any in the slave market, Leylin knew that some other place in the market, there would be another slave market that specialised in selling acolytes as slaves.

After all, for many Dark Magi, it was only acolytes who could resist radiation, were to best subjects for their experiments.

As to sources of such acolyte slaves, they made use of war criminals or prisoners.

If Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was completely defeated, and the headquarters seized, then the fate of all the acolytes in the academy-apart from the ones backed by strong factions-will most likely end up as slaves.

As for people like Leylin who escaped earlier, he could only draw a clear line between himself and the academy in future. And take the four seas as

his home, becoming a pitiable wanderer.

“Right now, I can only pray that the academy wins..... Even if they lose, I hope they don’t lose badly.....” Leylin looked towards the West, his expression a little grim.

Seeing Young Master become pensive, Anna and Fraser bowed their heads too, not daring to utter a word.

With the noise of rolling wheels gradually getting closer, Leylin could see a Knight driving a horse carriage, the appearance seemed to be Greem.

The horse carriage was pitch black in colour and did not have much in the way of patterns on it. The merchants who sold the carriage did not know if Greem belonged to the nobility, so they did not dare inscribe on the carriage. However, it looked extremely sturdy. A couple of large black horses were pulling it, dashing rapidly towards Leylin.

“Young Master!” Greem got down the carriage, and handed the money purse back to Leylin with both hands, “The carriage cost.....”

“No need for further discussion.” Leylin took it over, and then threw the money purse to Anna, “In the future you will deal with the finances, if there is not enough then ask me!”

“Yes, Young Master!” Anna carefully kept the money purse.

In it were only a few gold coins used by normal humans. Leylin only required a little effort to get as much as he wanted. What he was concerned about were the Magic Crystals, the currency used in the Magus World.

It was a pity that even in the South Coastal Regions, Magic Crystals were in extremely high demand as currency. After visiting so many markets, Leylin could see shops exchange coins for Magic Crystals, but never the other way round.

These were his subordinates in the future. After thinking for a while, Leylin undid his hood. and revealed a dashing face. His appearance, however, was still in its slightly altered state.

“You will be my trusted aides in the future, so take a look at my true appearance!”

The reason why Leylin disguised himself was to buy and sell resources. Right now since all his potions were sold, he did not need a disguise. These people also had to meet Leylin daily, so they will definitely see his true appearance—so the sooner the better.

After Leylin removed the spell, the muscles of his face twitched, and returned back to his original youthful visage.

Seeing Anna and the rest nod their heads, Leylin commanded, “Let’s set off towards Eastwoods Province!”

Chapter 54: Roran City

On the wide road, a horse carriage rapidly sped by. In the driver's seat sat two large guys wearing metallic armour and long swords. One look and people got the message that they were not to be messed with. Farmers in the vicinity scurried out of their way.

Inside the carriage, the smell of wood and lacquer mixed together and was somewhat unpleasant.

Leylin's nose wrinkled as he caught a whiff of perfume. Seeing that Anna was blushing beside him, Leylin smiled and beckoned, "Come here!"

When she drew near, Leylin made her recline halfway, then lay his head on her chest.

His hands conveniently roved around Anna's thighs. The thin cotton fabric could not hide her beauty. Leylin felt as if both his hands were touching a piece of warm and soft jade.

Savouring the softness he was leaning on, and hearing Anna's panting, made Leylin feel extremely content. He sighed, closed both his eyes and stayed still.

He had had been feeling on edge lately, as he had to exercise prudence after every trade. This occupied a lot of Leylin's thoughts. Now that he did not have to do so anymore, Leylin could finally take a break, and obtain ample time to rest. He even had two Knights to take care of the trouble.

Naturally, the two Knights would be sleeping outside, leaving the interior of the carriage to their Master and the maid. Leylin was no gentleman. Moreover, Anna was also quite a beauty and excelled in that area. Idling away in the carriage, he naturally had already bedded her. There was even a faint trace of dark red blood on the cabin's floor.

As a maid bought by Leylin, how could Anna resist her Master? All along the journey, she served him wholeheartedly and tried various positions with him, which also satisfied a few of his fetishes.

"Thankfully I am a magician. I can use magical herbs and undergo

meditation to continuously recover and increase my Vitality. With the previous Leylin's sad physique, I would most likely have aged prematurely.....”

Leylin ordered mentally, “A.I. Chip, show me my stats!”

[Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte. Strength: 2.7, Agility: 2.8, Vitality: 3.0, Spiritual Force: 4.6, Magical Power: 4.0. Status: Healthy]

“Four to five months have passed, and I persisted in meditation everyday. To think that there was only an increase of 0.2.....” Leylin's expression was a little unsightly, “I have to hurry to my destination and settle down to try brewing the ancient potions. Who knows when I will meet the requirements for advancing?”

All acolytes encounter a bottleneck when advancing to Level 3. Even a fifth-grade acolyte like Jayden still requires years of training in order to breakthrough.

After analysing the conditions needed to advance, mastering the spells and brewing Reactive Elixirs became trivial. Only getting past the 7 Spiritual Force bottleneck remained baffling for countless genius acolytes. Even official Magi did not have good solutions to address this aspect of Spiritual Force cultivation. Only constant painstaking meditation had any effectiveness or maybe the use potions and the sort could be an alternative. The cost of these, unfortunately, could not be borne by the typical acolyte.

Right now Leylin too was stuck on the same Spiritual Force bottleneck.

“A.I. Chip! How is the analysis of the two potions? And what is the progress in deciphering Lowian's Teachings?”

[Beep! Azure Potion analysis progress: 100%, Tears of Mary analysis progress: 78%, Lowian's Teachings analysis progress: 63.7%] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

“The Azure Potion has been fully analysed long ago. Unfortunately, the main ingredients are now completely extinct. Finding substitutes requires countless experiments. As for the Tears of Mary, it has been at 78% for 3

months now with no signs of progress at all. Could some crucial procedures be missing?

Leylin's brows furrowed; the A.I. Chip's processing ability was extremely powerful. The progress in analysing the ancient potion Tears of Mary analysis stagnated at 78%, which made Leylin rather surprised.

"These formulas that Professor Kroft gave me should be correct. If the A.I. Chip could not analyse them after all this time, it might have met with some difficult question that was beyond the parameters of the databank.....Tears of Mary! Tears!" Leylin guessed.

"Could it be.....That this ancient potion formula has something to do with a soul?"

After all hearing the name of this potion, one will easily associate it with some ill-fated event.

As for Lowian's Teachings, the progress was rather good. Although the creator used extremely complicated coding to ensure secrecy, the A.I. Chip was least daunted by the complicated computations.

Leylin roughly knew the general contents of this scroll through reading the previous portions that have been analysed.

"Unfortunately, though this item is not bad, I can only make use of it when I become a Level 3 Acolyte!"

Leylin shook his head and got rid of these distracting thoughts.

Suddenly, the horse carriage stopped.

Leylin's brows furrowed as he asked, "Did something happen?"

"Young Master please be at ease, it is merely a group of bandits who have blocked the path!" Fraser has already gone over to take care of it!" Greem's voice travelled through the wooden wall.

Ping Pang! Bang!

As expected, moments later it seemed that negotiations failed. The sound of various weapons clashing could be heard. After a few profanities and continuous wailing, Fraser's voice was heard saying "It's settled." The

horse carriage once again resumed the journey.

This kind of an outcome made Leylin feel very satisfied.

The reason why he bought two Knights and a maid was so that all the trifling matters would be handled by them, allowing him more time to focus on researching spells and doing more experiments.

These matters along the way were trivial. Leylin had the faint outline of a plan that would require the participation of many people to accomplish. And these 3 people were at the core of it.

“Young.....Young Master!” Anna who was behind him, let off a low pant.

Only then did Leylin realise that his hand slipped. While he was deep in thought, his hand had unknowingly touched Anna’s private part.

Leylin smiled and withdrew his hand.

Seeing that Anna’s face was still flushed, he said, “Right now Young Master is occupied with something! I’ll have time tonight to play with you.....”

These intimate words made Anna somewhat shy as she lowered her head.

Pretending not to see the temptation right in front of him, he said “A.I. Chip! Transmit the fully analysed Azure Potion formula!”

Leylin always drew a clear line between entertainment and research. At the most crucial moment, he would definitely not be infatuated and lose the will to improve.

.....

Seeing Leylin had already closed both his eyes, Anna’s eyes dulled. She then rearranged her clothes back to its former neatness and tried her best to adjust her body so that Leylin could rest more comfortably.....”

Night fell after what felt like a moment.

Leylin regained consciousness after meditation.

“Young Master! There is a city not far from here!” Greem’s voice

travelled over.

“Where are we now?”

“According to the markings on the map, we should have already entered Eastwoods Province. This is Roran City, which is situated at the provincial borders!”

The crashing sounds of things being rummaged sounded, as Fraser spoke.

“Roran City huh?” Leylin muttered to himself and adjusted the map stored in the A.I. Chip.

On the faint blue map, a red coloured line was linked with many cities. Roran City was towards the west of Extreme Night City, only several days’ journey.

“After half a year of travelling, we are finally arriving huh?” Leylin felt a little rueful.

The reason why he chose this place earlier was its distance from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy-he wouldn’t be affected by the conflicts taking place over there. Another consideration was that only by being far away from the academy, would he be able to conduct a few prohibited experiments.

After all, he had the A.I. Chip in his body and also the process for many of the experiments were very unusual. If he had experimented at the academy, using the remnants or rubbish, the possibility of being discovered was inevitable.

However, Leylin felt less restrained ever since he had left-like a caged canary that was set free and soared into the sky.

Leylin opened the carriage door, and a gust of cold wind blew in.

“The feeling of freedom!” Leylin looked at the city, which seemed a little desolate, and the nearby farmers. He could not help but smile.

“First find us a place to lodge in We’ll set off tomorrow morning!”

Leylin gave the orders. In the wild, it was natural to either stay in the horse carriage or inside a tent. However, since they had reached human

habitation, Leylin naturally did not want to deprive himself of this chance.

The black-coloured horse carriage entered the city under the respectful gaze of the guard.

To the people in Eastwoods Province, having a horse carriage, guards and a maid, elevated Leylin to the level of idle nobility.

In fact, Leylin was indeed a descendant of nobility. It was just that it was not this continent's nobility.

Leylin never considered using the dukedom title from Chernobyl Islands here. However, the status of a noble could indeed greatly reduce problems.

After finding a place at a local inn for lodging, Leylin called an attendant over.

"Do you know where I can hire people here?" Leylin played with a gold coin in his hands.

Seeing Anna behind Leylin, and staring intently at the gold coin in Leylin's hands, the attendant could not help but to gulp down a mouthful of saliva.

"Most respected Sire! If you require attendants, the employment marketplace beside the City Lord's Manor would be your best choice. There, you can hire strong warriors, proficient housekeepers, and even various maids and stable hands....."

"Very good! Bring me there tomorrow and this gold coin will be yours!" Leylin smiled.

This time, he could stay in Extreme Night City for a long period. Leylin naturally wanted peace and quiet. He required people who could carry out his bidding. Since he did not want to be controlled by others, he would not be able to avoid wielding his own influence.

With Anna and the two knights as his core retainers, and hiring a few more from Roran City, his retinue would be more or less complete.

Although he could hire more people in Extreme Night City, they will definitely be infiltrated. As for Roran City, although it could not be

avoided, it was good to reduce the numbers and influences to a minimum.

Dinner was white bread with vegetable soup. Although the shop owner had already taken out the best items to serve Leylin, it was still somewhat lacking compared to the academy's cafeteria.

As Leylin was eating, many customers in the shop hid in the corner. They wore grey or brown coarse robes. Their gazes carried respect and fear.

Looking at the empty space around him, Leylin smiled bitterly.

Chapter 55: Roran Hawks

The next morning, Leylin was guided to the employment marketplace in Roran City by the attendant.

The employment marketplace was beside the City Lord's Manor, so the public security there was not bad. At the very least Leylin did not see any brawls taking place.

Along the way, there were many people who looked at Leylin and his group. They were especially interested in Anna, who was behind Leylin, as she was an exceptional beauty, and was even more so after some dressing up. Fortunately, they did not dare try anything funny for they were rather fearful of Greem who was covered in steel armour.

"Sir! This is the employment marketplace in Roran City. All the people you require can be found here, besides you can also issue any mission related hiring....." The attendant explained to Leylin's group of three.

As for Fraser, Leylin made him stay at the inn to look after the horse carriage and luggage.

Although the important possessions such as potion ingredients and Magic Crystals were on Leylin, if they were to lose a few items like gold coins and the sort, it would prove rather troublesome.

Leylin surveyed the employment marketplace before him.

In his view was a large field, with groups of stable hands, mercenaries and the sort squatting on the ground, waiting for some employer to hire them.

Leylin knew that there had to be a slave market too, however it could not be displayed blatantly out in the open. After all, even a Magus market had to organise one covertly.

However this was well within Leylin's plans, he only wanted an entourage to hire here, so his requirements were lower.

"Young Sir, may I help you with anything?" As Leylin entered the marketplace, a group of traders and merchants swarmed around him.

They were obviously dazzled by Leylin's lavish attire and shouted themselves hoarse as they tried to promote their products.

"I need a group of mercenaries to escort me to Extreme Night City, and also to guard my estate there. The contract duration would be at least two years!" Looking at the fervent traders, Leylin stated his requirements.

After reaching this part of the continent, Leylin realised that the novels, in his previous world talking about mercenary groups and bandit gangs and the like, were all nonsense.

Apart from a few large cities that Leylin was yet to visit, in Roran City and other smaller city marketplaces, there were no such groups to speak of.

All such employment, assassinations or similar missions, were arranged at the local bars or trade offices, some locations were even extremely bizarre.

"After all, the costs have to be factored in, and, if the remuneration does not even cover the cost of operations, there wouldn't be any fool who would be willing to toss their gold coins into the water!"

"Then could I inquire if you have any requirements regarding the number of escorts and their strength?" A skinny man with a shiny bald head squeezed through the traders, and asked loudly.

"Number of people huh? Around 10 to 15! Their strength only needs to be equivalent to the average guard's standard. The only request I have is loyalty and honour! As the mission might extend over 2 years, I will have to issue a contract, and the salary is to be given monthly!"

Leylin said blandly.

"In that case, I have a group of mercenaries here that fits your requirements!" The bald trader smiled.

"The Roran Hawks Mercenary Group has just finished their vacation. Moreover, they are citizens of Roran City, so their reputation can definitely be assured of!" The bald trader explained.

Leylin noticed that when the baldy mentioned the Roran Hawks Mercenary Group, the crowd all turned silent. There were even respected and envious looks. It seemed like the Roran Hawks had a large reputation around here.

“Alright then! Bring me to have a look at them, the commission will definitely be given to you later!” Leylin said.

“Please follow me!” The bald trader led the way, bringing Leylin out of the marketplace.

After the attendant in the inn received his gold coin, he bade his farewell. Anna and Greem followed closely behind Leylin; the current group of four walked on for about half an hour before reaching the southern part of the city.

Having reached here, the surrounding buildings were constructed differently. If the central part of the city was modelled after the City Lord’s Manor, with the buildings being extremely imposing and respectful, then the southern part of the buildings were multi-coloured with various styles. Very much like residential estates.

“This seems to be the area where the free citizens of the city gather!” Leylin muttered as he looked at the crushed rock laid into a pavement, and the small flower terrace and stone-made lamp.

“You have a good eyesight, Sir. Those who live here are predominantly the traders and free citizens of Roran City. The Roran Hawks Mercenary Group also reside here!”

“Are you not going to bring us to the training grounds of this mercenary group?” Green asked at the side.

“Respected Sir! Roran Hawks Mercenary Group is only a small unit, and their number does not exceed 30. Their reputation is only spread within Roran City. It is only a casual alliance formed by their leader. The cost of renting some space for them to train would have made their mission earnings obsolete. Thus, who would be willing to do that?” The baldy said with a wry smile

“Normally, the members are each busy with their own matters. They gather only when they receive a mission!” Saying which, the baldy looked at Leylin, and smiled apologetically, “Although the Roran Hawks Mercenaries are few in number, most of them are retired veterans. Moreover, their leader was once a middle ranked troop leader in the army, and his strength is not bad.....”

Obviously, the baldy was worried about Leylin being prejudiced against the mercenary group, but these matters could not be concealed either, so he could only say before they found out.

“A middle-ranked troop leader huh? I am looking forward to meeting him!” Leylin smiled, he actually did not really mind who he hired in Roran City, as their roles will primarily be to run errands for him in future.

“We’ve arrived!” The baldy brought Leylin and the rest in front of a two-storeyed villa. Within a circle surrounded by a rosewood fence, there was a small pond and garden. There was a type of small white flower, their petals being extremely small, but with a dense aroma, a middle-aged lady was currently watering the flowers.

“Hello! Madam Lariette! Is Fayern around? I have brought some business for him!” The baldy greeted the lady watering the plants.

“Of course he’s around, my dear friend!” Before the lady got to respond, a bold and unrestrained voice sounded from within the house.

A large guy wearing a white-coloured shirt walked over and hugged the baldy.

“My dearest Fayern! Let me introduce to you— this is Sir Leylin who came from the central part of our city. He wishes to employ your Roran Hawks Mercenary Group to escort him to Extreme Night City!” The baldy explained to Fayern.

“Hello! Respected Sir, if you choose to go to Extreme Night City, then the Roran Hawks Mercenary Group would be your best bet. We have traversed the route over 100 times, and recognise every rock, nook and cranny on the path.”

Fayern bowed slightly towards Leylin and laughed as he spoke loudly.

Leylin noticed that this group leader's eyes had been sizing up the three of them. Especially lingering on Greem for a while, as if discovering something. However, he overlooked Leylin.

"A crude outer appearance but his inner qualities are astute! He is also a Preparatory Knight!" Leylin observed, and at this moment, the A.I. Chip scanned Fayern's stats.

[Name: Fayern. Strength: 1.8, Agility: 1.5, Vitality: 1.7, Spiritual Force: 1.4]

These stats amongst Preparatory Knights was only considered average, however from Fayern's callus and multiple scars on both of his hands, it can be seen that he has bountiful experience as a mercenary.

"We can discuss this later, won't you invite us in to take a seat?" Leylin smiled, and gestured towards the villa.

"Oh, of course I will! Please enter!" Fayern patted his head and moved his body while bowing. His right hand stretched, making an invitation for them to enter.

After exiting the garden, it was soon the living room of the villa.

The floor was painted red, and on one the four surrounding walls there hung a rusty and stained cross blade. Beside it was a skull belonging to an elk, with bent antlers that were intertwined and had a jet-black lustre.

Fayern cordially invited Leylin and the group to have a rest on the sofa in the living room. He also asked Madam Lariette to give Leylin and the rest a beverage similar to black tea and then began to discuss the details.

"I heard from Nigel that this respected Young Master wants to go to Extreme Night City? If it is not inconvenient, could you tell me the reason why? Please forgive me, only after assessing the risk can the group make preparations for it....." Fayern's tone was rather sincere.

Leylin sipped on this beverage similar to black tea— it was rather sweet and salty and thus he did not like its taste— before he placed the cup down.

“Regarding the mission this time, I only wanted to start some business there, and require manpower for security. Do not worry about any other trouble!” Leylin looked at Fayern, while the latter was rather embarrassed and looked down.

Obviously, Fayern assumed Leylin was the bastard son of a noble who had lost in a power struggle and was sent away.

“The reason why I hire you was because the people in Roran City will not be easily bought when compared to those in Extreme Night City. Moreover, I have received news that there were some interesting events recently happening within Extreme Night City.....” Leylin smiled and said.

“Interesting events?” Group Leader Fayern guessed, “Is it about the incident where the the vegetation near the surroundings of Extreme Night City suddenly withered? ”

“Correct! A forest, the size of a small village, suddenly withered. It really makes one worried. Because of this incident, I believe it is necessary to increase the strength of the guards.”

“Concerning the earnings, I can give each a monthly salary of one gold coin. However, each one must sign an employment contract for agreeing to follow my commands for at least 2 years or more.”

Leylin interlocked the 10 fingers of his hands, as he gave his opinion.

Fayern’s face was indecisive, clearly he was making a choice. After being silent for some time, he struggled to say, “The other matters will be alright, what about the mission duration?”

“Although the period of two years is rather long, you don’t really have to always stay at Extreme Night City. I promise you during any idle period, I will grant them leave to visit their loved ones. Also, if they want to bring their wife and family over to Extreme Night City, I can also arrange an appropriate position for them.....” Leylin’s voice reverberated in the living room.

“Sir, I have seen your sincerity. I would like to talk it over with a few of my brothers; after all, I do not run the mercenary group alone. I can give

you an answer tomorrow, so please be rest assured, Sir!", said Fayern as he stood up and bowed slightly.

"Good! We will wait for good news from you!" While Fayern saluted, Leylin calmly got up and together with his servants and the bald trader, left the villa.

Chapter 56: A Visit

A golden object arced, flashing in the light, and landed in the arms of the bald trader.

“Take this; it’s the commission that you deserve.” Leylin said

“Many thanks for your conferment, most respected Young Master!” The baldy hurriedly bowed.

“Next, I need a housekeeper and two people who can keep accounts well! If you’re able to find them for me, this gold coin is yours!” Leylin flicked a gold coin on his hand.

“Let me think! Let me think!” Seeing that it was another gold coin waving its hand at him, the baldy suddenly became lively. He began muttering incoherently while grabbing his bald head and racking his brains. “That’s right! Old Welker! Old Welker was a housekeeper for a Baron before. Recently, He has been saying that he wants to come out again to make a living!”

The bald trader said.

“Very good! Bring me to him!” Leylin nodded his head approvingly.

Two days later, in the morning. While the mist still had not completely dissipated, there was still some frostiness lingering in the cold morning air.

Creak! Roran City gates opened slowly, and a horse carriage emerged from between them.

A dozen odd mercenaries, wearing broken armour and carrying metal spears and bows, escorted a large horse carriage as it slowly left the city.

In front of the horse carriage, Fayern was leading a brown colored handsome steed. Behind him was a 20 year old mercenary carrying a red-coloured flag. On it was embroidered the image of a hawk; the insignia of the Roran Hawks Mercenary Group.

Greem rode close to the horse carriage having given up the driver seat.

The person who sat there instead was a white haired geezer. Although he faced the wind and his hair was blown about wildly, his clothes were impeccable and without any creases.

He was the housekeeper that Leylin got– Old Welker. Earlier, the Baron he served had gone bankrupt, hence, he became jobless. He was of the same beat as the bald trader who visited him and joined Leylin’s party.

Going from Roran City to Extreme Night City only required 7 days. Roran Hawks Mercenary Group was worthy of Fayern’s praise. They were extremely familiar with the route and could even find lodging along the way, saving them from the hassle of setting up camp.

7 days later, the group safely arrived at Extreme Night City.

Leylin lifted open the hanging screen on the horse carriage and saw that the clouds ahead were rather dark. The layers of cloud were crowded together, completely blocking any sunrays. It seemed that it would rain soon.

There was also a shadow cast on the surrounding bushes and grasses, which made it look very gloomy.

“Fayern!” Leylin walked out of the horse carriage’s door, “Didn’t you say that Extreme Night City has a large area of vegetation that withered? Which area was that?”

“Young Master!” Fayern grasped the reins firmly and reduced the pace of the horses to match the pace of the horse carriage.

“Extreme Night City is enormous. These mysterious happenings only belong to a small portion in the eastern part. Normally, we try our best to detour around that area. After all, humans have also done their best to avoid danger.....”

“Where is that forest?” Leylin leaned against the side of the door, as if he was enjoying the scenery.

“The eastern part of Dark Night Woods is closer to the core of the city!” Fayern looked at Leylin and he lowered his voice and said, “Dark Night Woods had an abundance of certain herbs. Ever since the withering event,

however, the supply of herbs in Extreme Night City has decreased by 30%!”

“Is that so?” Leylin smiled. Extreme Night City was considered a large city in Eastwoods Province and one of the pillars of its economy was the herb industry. Now, it seemed that most likely the City’s Lord and his officers were worried about the situation.

“Dark Night Woods? I’ll remember it!” Although the woods in the kingdom were rather dangerous, this was only true for normal humans. Leylin even traversed his academy’s Abyssal Bone Forest, so naturally he was not worried about the present dangers.

“Did any of the herb gatherers disappear in the withering zone?” Leylin asked suddenly.

“Herb gatherers? You mean various hired hands, bandits and adventurers?” Fayern shrugged his shoulders, “The woods are full of dangers, and a few people dying is very normal, so who knows?”

As the two conversed, the horse carriage slowly approached Extreme Night City.

The city walls were not very high, yet they were extremely thick. It seemed to be made by piling granite rocks, and was extremely sturdy.

The guard at the city gates recognised Fayern and allowed the horse carriage to enter after payment of the toll fee.

“Let’s find lodging first!” Leylin ordered briefly.

.....

Night approached, and Leylin sent Anna, who was serving him, away and stayed alone in the inn’s room.

Opening the window, a cold gust of air blew in. The outside was extremely dark, and there were few lighted lamps.

Leylin closed the door and took out a blue coloured crystal ball from the sack he carried at all times.

This crystal ball was extremely small and let off a strange glow. In the

centre of the glass were many golden specks of light that continuously rove about like little fireflies.

“Activate!” Leylin muttered an incantation.

The specks in the crystal ball started to shift about until finally forming a strange symbol.

This symbol was rather curvy and swirled continuously. It finally looked like an eye that was bloodshot..

Leylin’s expression was extremely solemn. First he turned the symbol towards his face allowing his somewhat skinny face to be reflected onto the crystal ball.

“Shadow Calendar, Year 1032, Month of the severe cold, Day of the ravens weeping.” Leylin enunciated slowly in an extremely distinct voice.

“Today, I have arrived at Extreme Night City and am currently residing at Hoof’s Inn.” Leylin turned the crystal ball so the surroundings were reflected into the symbol inside. He then walked over to the windowsill and soaked up the imagery outside.

“Currently, news has it that the withering area belongs to the east area, Dark Night Woods. As of this recording, there have been no reports of any member’s death. Tomorrow I will prepare to set off and enquire, maybe gather new information.”

“The above mentioned records are by: Level 2 Acolyte, Leylin Farlier!”

After he finished speaking, Leylin wiped the crystal ball with his pale white fingers. Hehe! Hehe! From within the crystal ball came a strange sound, like a kid’s laughter. Following which, the eye symbol flickered and disappeared, turning back into countless golden specks of light

The crystal ball was given by the academy to Leylin to be used as proof of having undertaken the mission.

The crystal ball was able to record a few scenes and voices. All that Leylin had to do was to record every important event during the mission. He could then hand it over as proof upon returning to the academy.

Of course, the crystal ball's controlling right was with Leylin. As long as he did not want to activate it, the crystal ball would not be able to record anything without his magical support.

This was why Abyssal Bone Forest Academy dared to allow their acolytes to go out on long term missions without fear of being duped.

"From Fayern's description, the withering danger zone is not that huge. I'm afraid that it could either be some tree demons or organisms that feed on humans. A Level 2 Acolyte would be more than enough to deal with them!"

Leylin weighed things carefully, "I don't have to be that frantic, I still have over two years! I should first send some mercenaries over to have a look....."

"The most important thing at hand now is to settle down here. Moreover, I have to visit a 'friend'..... Leylin's lips curved into a mysterious smile.

Although the location of Extreme Night City was rather remote, it was close to a few Magi resource points. There was even a Magic Crystal Mine nearby that was being excavated. Of course, the resources were already exhausted, but they still attracted a good number of wandering Magi and small families. It even gave rise to a small scale Magus market and was indicated on the map Bicky gave.

Moreover, within the short span of time while they were entering the city, the A.I. Chip had already picked out several energy waves emitted by other acolytes. It seems that there were quite a few acolytes living in this city.

This was extremely normal, as wandering magicians or those who were reclusive preferred remote towns to settle in, and to better conceal their identities.

Of course, due to having longer lifespans, appearance and radiation emissions, they cannot stay in the same area for long, often changing locations after a few years.

While Leylin was thinking thus, he yelled, “Anna!”

“Young Master, what are your instructions!” Not long after, Anna entered wearing a beautiful red dress. As she curtsied, her snow white calves were revealed.

“Prepare a gift; I want to pay someone a visit tomorrow!”

“As to the specifics, Welker will tell you!” Leylin yawned and stated blandly.

After dismissing the somewhat disappointed Anna, Leylin casually set up an energy particle array as an early warning device before he blew out the candles and entered dreamland.

The next morning, Leylin left with Anna who brought along a beautiful hat.

“Is this the gift that Old Welker picked?” Leylin took the cap and gave it a once-over, realising that it was made of beast hide. It was very smooth to the touch, and there was also a feather stuck on it.

“Housekeeper Welker said that in Extreme Night City, Sticking the Night Hawk’s feather on a leather cap represents peaceful intent and friendliness. It is the gift of choice when paying a visit for the first time!” Anna put on a rather frightened expression.

“Young.....Young Master! Are you going to visit another ‘Sire’?” Anna’s voice became somewhat shaky.

“Yes! He is also an acolyte!” Leylin lowered his voice, so that it was only audible to Anna and himself.

After he spoke, he saw the young girl’s shoulder trembled. Leylin smiled, Anna was sold to a Magus before she was resold as a slave. It seemed to have been a traumatic experience for her.

“If you’re afraid, you can always go back first!” Leylin moved forward and embraced Anna’s slender waist.

“No! Anna wants to go together with Young Master!” Anna forced herself to smile.

Leylin shook his head, "Follow me if you want to!"

Extreme Night City's construction was somewhat gothic with sharp spikes on the roof tops. The pavements were also layered with smooth rocks giving the impression that Extreme Night City was one of the wealthier cities around.

As Leylin and Anna neared the eastern side of the city, the people's outfits here became much more urbane than that of other places and the decorations on the buildings became more gorgeous too.

"It seems like the east of Extreme Night City is where the nobles and scholars congregate."

Leylin looked at the clusters of flowers on both sides of the road. There was even an outdoor fountain. He could not help but smile as he said to Anna.

Afterwards, the two of them came to a white-coloured two storey villa. On the door plate was hung, "Cecelia Main Street, 59".

Chapter 57: Murphy

Leylin rang the doorbell that hung on the door. A crisp ring of a bell could be heard, followed by the noise of scurrying footsteps.

“Hello! May I ask who you are? Do you have an appointment?” A meticulous looking butler appeared in front of Leylin.

“Leylin Farlier, I am here to visit the owner of this villa!” Leylin smiled.

The butler obviously looked distressed as he said, “Sir, as you know, my master, Murphy, is a renowned scholar. His schedule every day is extremely packed, perhaps.....”

At this moment, a girl, who seemed like the maid, hurriedly ran over and whispered into the butler’s ears.

The butler’s complexion immediately changed as he bowed deeply, “Master invites you into the living room!”

Leylin smiled as he retrieved the energy waves he radiated.

Upon entering inside the villa, there was a corridor littered with various art pieces like paintings and exhibited on the faint yellow colored walls were all kinds of oil paintings, and other specimens of art, which were rather pleasing to the eyes.

As the living room came into view, it became quite obvious that it was a spacious house.

The decor in the room was extremely aesthetic. Although there were no dazzling golden or silver items or gems, these pieces had an aura of history and gave off a feeling of understated elegance.

Beside the fireplace in the living room, an old scholar with white brows and beard lounged on a dark red recliner.

The old man’s eyes seemed muddy with only occasional traces of intelligence within.

The old man’s originally squinted eyes opened upon seeing Leylin. He stood up and spread his arms in an embracing gesture, “Welcome, my

young friend!”

Leylin went forward to hug the old man, “It is an honour to be able to meet you! I hope you like this present I brought for you!”

Anna stepped forward and handed over to the butler an extremely exquisite cap.

“I like the tail feathers of the night hawk. They represent peace!” The old man waved his hands, “Lille, you may take your leave, I want to have a good chat with this friend of mine!”

“Take your leave too!” Leylin told Anna who was beside him.

After extending their salutations, the few maids and the butler left, closing the door behind them. Very soon, there was only Leylin and the old man left in the living room.

“Alright, let’s reintroduce ourselves! Murphy, Level 3 Acolyte! I have been a resident of Extreme Night City for 3 years now.....” The old man’s eyes showed signs of his reminiscing past events.

“So then, guest from afar, how about you?”

“Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte and wandering Magus. I have recently come to Extreme Night City and wish to reside here for several years.” Leylin smiled and executed the bow between Magi.

“I detect signs of youth in your body. Being able to advance into Level 2 Acolyte at this age, you have a rather great aptitude!” Murphy sighed in admiration.

“I was just lucky.....” Leylin demurred. Although the old man’s body had degenerated, the energy waves of a Level 3 Acolyte told anyone that it was not good to provoke him.

“A.I. Chip, initiate scan!”

[Murphy. Strength: 1.5, Agility: 1.4, Vitality: 2.9, Spiritual Force: 2.9, Magical Power: 8. Status: Healthy. Evaluation: Level 3 Acolyte, relatively dangerous!]

The A.I. Chip faithfully relayed the figures onto Leylin’s field of vision.

Being a wandering Level 3 Acolyte, Murphy's array of magic spells definitely surpassed Leylin's. Moreover, he would have some extremely-difficult-to-deal-with trump cards hidden to protect his life.

However, Leylin came with good intentions. From the A.I. Chip's area scan, the number of acolytes residing in Extreme Night City was not high. As for this Murphy, he radiated one of the strongest energy waves.

After exchanging several polite greetings, Leylin delved immediately into the main purpose of his visit.

"So it's like this! I wish to reside permanently in Extreme Night City, and even open an ingredients shop. You know, the procedures are extremely tedious, and I also need a resident to act as my guarantor....."

"So you came here to look for me?" Murphy smiled, and drank the cup of red tea that was on the table.

"To be honest, as an ambitious and truth seeking Magus, gold coins and the like should no longer sway us. Although I don't know why you arrived at this conclusion, on a whim perhaps? Or for some other reason? To me, this indeed is a small matter!"

"Coincidentally, I have some friendly relations with the Lord of Extreme Night City. One of his sons is also under my tutelage. Moreover, any city lord will not refuse the request of a Mysterious Entity..... The residential procedures here in Extreme Night City, as well as the shop permit, can all be settled very easily." Murphy guaranteed.

"Then I must really thank you!" Leylin nodded his head, "If there are any areas I could help you with, do not hesitate to ask!"

Although this was said to satisfy the requirements of etiquette, both Leylin and the old man knew that it was mentioned as a mere courtesy.

The handling of residential procedures may be difficult to regular humans. However, for a famous scholar like Murphy, it was only a matter of a few words. Even if Leylin wanted to handle these procedures by himself, he would have to spend more time than the old man.

For both Murphy and Leylin, this matter was simply a means to establish

a basic friendship of convenience between them.

“Extreme Night City is a peaceful and quiet place. If you wish to have peaceful days then this place will definitely meet your needs. Later on, I will also introduce you to a few friends of mine. However, there are some set conventional customs that have to be complied with.....Don't worry, they are all customary practices, for example, one should not massacre the residents or something like that!”

“I definitely agree!” Leylin's coming to Extreme Night City was to avoid the chaos of war and intrigue. Naturally he would not do anything that would draw attention to himself.

Leylin and Murphy then talked about many Magi related questions, from how to stabilise a spell model for advanced levels to some of Murphy's personal adventures.

Although Murphy was only a Level 3 Acolyte, his experience was abundant due to having remained at this level for a long time already. This made Leylin feel that the trip was not in vain.

On the other hand, Leylin's vast knowledge and eidetic memory shocked Murphy.

Both of them regretted not having met earlier. They even had their lunch together all the way until dusk before Murphy let Leylin leave. When they bade farewell, they even arranged for their next meeting.

“According to what Murphy said, the magicians in Extreme Night City are all of the acolyte level. As for the few nearby cities, official Magi were also extremely rare making this place very suitable for an acolyte to live in!”

The inquiries he made today caused Leylin to feel at ease, letting him walk at a slower and a more relaxed pace.

“Only regarding this case where plants and wood withered is Murphy completely ignorant. After all, he is already quite old and does not wish to take risks.....”

The two street lamps were lit with a dim yellow flame, allowing Leylin to

see the road ahead.

Anna followed quietly behind Leylin. Being an outstanding maid, she obviously knew what she had to do, which was not to interrupt Leylin while he was deep in thought.

After Leylin ran through a simulation of his plans one more time, they had both arrived at the inn.

“Young Master!” “Sir!”

Old Welker, Greem and Fraser came forward to receive them.

Leylin nodded his head, “After dinner all of you come to my room. There are many things I want to inform all of you regarding my future plans!”

Dinner was vegetable salad and mutton soup, followed by huge pieces of dried cookies. After Leylin finished and allowed Anna to clean up, the core people among his subordinates went to Leylin’s room.

Leylin sat on a chair wrapped in beast hide and quietly listened to their reports.

“Welker, how was the search for a residence?”

“Young Master, Old Welker has already contacted a Knight who is preparing to move to Sage Province. He is willing to sell a small manor in Extreme Night City to you.” Old Welker reported. Despite being an old man, he was brimming with energy after finding them a new home.

“Very good, what is the area like? Is the place enough to house all of us? How much is it?” Leylin asked.

“Please be at ease Young Master. Old Welker, I have gone to the manor and taken a look today. The area was very big and has no problem accommodating a hundred people. Moreover, there is even an oil palm forest, a fish pond and a mill. Knight Victor originally built it according to a baron’s standards. He never thought that it would change ownership this quickly. As for the price, Knight Victor has set it at 5000 gold coins!”

“It’s not that expensive, gold coins aren’t an issue!” Leylin twined his fingers. To a Magus, such earthly items as gold coins are insignificant.

What they were concerned with were only Magic Crystals, high-grade ingredients, and the acquisition of remnant ancient knowledge.

Leylin had high-grade Magic Crystals of his own. Any one piece would be able to fetch a price far surpassing this amount of gold coins. However, Leylin was not prepared to do that. After all, Magic Crystals were rarer. If he really could not get the gold coins, then he would go borrow some from Murphy in exchange for a few potions—which was not a bad idea at all.

“Very well!” Let’s take a look tomorrow. If the price and the area are both suitable, we can sign the contract immediately.” Leylin nodded his head, saying, “Also, go walk the streets and scout something for me. Recently, the herbs available in Extreme Night City have decreased. There will definitely be many small-sized shops that can no longer manage and are about to close down. Go and look into them first!”

“Forgive me for asking, but Young Master, are you thinking of opening a herb shop? The permit for doing such business has rather strict requirements.....” Fayern said.

“Regarding that, none of you have to worry. I have already made arrangements. The permit will be here in a few days.”

Hearing this, Fayern and Old Welker were dazed. To be able to guarantee such a thing quite easily, Leylin’s identity as a noble had already been confirmed.

“In Poolfield Kingdom, the nobility represents progress and hope!”

With this in mind, their gazes towards Leylin became more fervent.

Fayern silently clenched his fists. Being one of the few who could look ahead, he naturally knew that he could not work as a mercenary for much longer. Most of the mercenaries carried a lot of injuries and scars with to their graves knowing little enjoyment in their typically short lives. However, getting hired by this Sir Leylin as his private army could be the fastest way out of the trade.

Chapter 58: A Banquet

The brilliant rays of the sun lit up the path with a golden light. Walking on it was like walking on a golden, paved road.

Today Leylin had especially changed into formal ceremonial attire. He had Greem personally drive the horse carriage to Murphy's villa.

Similarly, Murphy also wore formal attire and carried a black cane as he waited. After seeing Leylin, his wrinkled face revealed a joyous expression, "Welcome, my friend!"

"My apologies for being a little late!" Leylin opened the window and said.

"The agreed time isn't up yet, I just deliberately got out earlier!" Murphy got into the horse carriage with the help of his servant. With the crack of the whip, Greem drove the horse carriage towards the centre of the city.

"City Lord's banquet is to be held today. He invited you too. After all, as the owner, he has developed a curiosity for any guest with strength..." Murphy left his sentence hanging.

"That's understandable!" Leylin answered. As someone who has control over a city, seeking Leylin out only after so many days since he had entered the city was somewhat surprising.

"Are you somewhat bored?" Murphy noticed Leylin's indifference.

"To be honest, I am not adept at these kinds of social interaction. Given a choice, I'd rather stay inside my experiment lab..." Leylin smiled wryly.

"Haha..." Murphy let off a benign laugh, "I felt exactly the same way when I was younger! However, you must learn to enjoy life, young man! Compared to tasteless experiments, delicacies and fervent, unrestrained women can sometimes lead you towards excitement!"

Leylin nodded his head. This was actually the difference between retired magicians and newly advanced ones.

Murphy has no way of advancing in the path of a Magus anymore, so he could only divert his enthusiasm towards other areas. As for Leylin, he still

had a lot of options, so he naturally would make use of the time to cultivate—not waste it on such mundane matters.

“Brighten up kid!” There are several comrades I will introduce you to....” Murphy smiled lightly.

“Could they be...?” Leylin’s eyes flashed.

“Indeed! They are acolytes like us, and they are all younger than me. You would have some common interests to talk about.”

“I’m starting to look forward to this banquet now!” Leylin’s lips curled up and smiled.

The City Lord’s castle was in the heart of Extreme Night City. Standing guard around it were two rows of fully equipped black-armoured arms men.

“Those are the Black Iron Guards of Extreme Night City’s Lord, Viscount Jackson. They once defeated a 500-man army troop with roughly hundred men.

After alighting the horse carriage, Murphy introduced Leylin.

Leylin looked around. There were several other horse carriages in the vicinity. From time to time, gentlemen in lavish attire and ladies in low-cut ball gowns got down.

Murphy appeared to have quite a reputation amongst this circle of nobles based on the exuberant greetings Murphy happily responded to. They even chatted for a while before moving on.

Upon seeing Murphy, the guard at the door ran in immediately. Not long after, an extremely loud voice boomed from within.

“Murphy, my friend! You have finally arrived!” Accompanying the voice, a burly middle-aged man walked out of the castle. The nobles and troops around respectfully greeted him. This apparently was Viscount Jackson of Extreme Night City.

Leylin’s height in the South Coast area was considered average, but this Viscount Jackson was actually taller than him by two heads. He had the

classic western features and an extremely wide forehead. He even had extremely long sideburns.

Jackson gave Murphy a firm hug, "Little Jackson has always been asking about you!"

"I too miss that cute fellow. He is one of the smartest amongst all my students!" Murphy said.

"This is a good friend of mine from far away, Sire Leylin Farlier!" Murphy introduced Leylin to Viscount Jackson.

"Extreme Night City welcomes you!" Jackson sized up Leylin, and opened his broad shoulders, giving Leylin a hug.

Leylin's smile was somewhat stiff, which he quickly concealed.

Right at that moment, he was completely distracted by the stats shown by the A.I. Chip.

[Jackson. Strength: 7.9, Agility: 4.5, Vitality: 6.3, Spiritual Force: 3.5. State: Healthy. This human is deemed as dangerous, it is strongly suggested that the Host maintain a distance of 50 metres from this person.]

"These stats can only belong to a Grand Knight!" Leylin's pupils shrank.

"The Vitality of Grand Knights is extremely high. And, after constant activation and stimulation of their internal life energy, they have surpassed the bottleneck that held back most humans. Moreover, they have also developed a slight resistance to Rank 0 spells." Leylin recalled a description he had read before.

"Very well! You should be a Knight too, right?" Lord Jackson was slightly astonished by Leylin's strength, and he looked upon Leylin now in a friendlier light.

"I only recently advanced, and am nowhere close to you!"

Leylin said humbly and ordered the A.I. Chip, "A.I. Chip! Show me a simulation if I were to fight against this City Lord Jackson."

[Beep! Establishing parameters, inputting data, simulating battle

scenario, predicting outcome....]

A large light screen flashed continuously, and the results: [Battle simulation complete. 50 metres and beyond, Host win rate is 89.8%. Between 20 to 50 metres, Host win rate is 58.7%. Below 20 metres, Host win rate is 33.9%!]

“As expected, the physical power of Grand Knights is extremely astounding. They are capable of closing the distance before a magician can cast a spell. If magicians do not try to stay out of range, they would be on the short end of the stick!”

Leylin’s expression did not change as he walked together with Murphy into the castle’s hall.

It was obvious that the large hall had been decorated for the occasion. The marbled floor was so smooth that it reflected the figures of people walking around on it.

A huge golden chandelier hung from the centre of the large hall. It was densely packed with lighted candles that shone through the surrounding coloured crystals letting out a colourful light.

At the side of this huge hall, was an orchestra of musicians wearing swallowtail coats and performing a slow enjoyable tune.

The area filled with long tables covered in white cloth. On these tables were gold and silver platters with various fruits and barbecued meat. On the side, there were even flasks and silver flagons, which emitted the strong aroma of wine.

Right in the centre was a huge open space where many of the nobility were waltzing to the music.

“It seems like a ball with a buffet on the side!” Leylin nodded his head.

“Go enjoy yourself! I’ll have to say hello to a few old friends!” Murphy said to Leylin.

“Please do!” Leylin gestured with his head in assent. He then picked up a cup of grape wine and sat on a nearby sofa.

Not long after, he spotted Murphy together with a number of coquettish women in revealing outfits. They even entered a small side room, which made him rather speechless.

“He’s so old and he still wants to pretend to be rather strong, can he even make it?”

“Do you mind if I sit beside you?” Just as Leylin was thinking such indecent thoughts, an elegant voice sounded beside him.

Leylin raised his head and saw a young lady wearing a purple gown. She had a head of golden hair that fell to her shoulders like a waterfall; even her skin was a milky white.

Looking around, Leylin discovered that there was no one else near him. Leylin was quite good looking and kept himself well groomed, which naturally attracted a few young ladies.

“Of course I don’t mind!” Leylin smiled lightly and chatted happily with the young lady.

To him, the combination of his memories from a previous life and the memories of this body’s previous owner made making a little girl happy an easy task.

Not long after, the young lady was completely enraptured by Leylin’s made-up stories.

“Haha...Haha, running naked on the street? He actually did that?” The young lady completely lost her earlier elegance; she laughed almost uproariously without much of her former delicate demeanor. This drew a lot of curious stares from the people close by.

“Sorry to interrupt you Leylin! However, our friends are here!”

Murphy, followed closely by several noble women with whom he had just tangled violently, walked over. Surprisingly, his attire was still extremely neat and tidy, which left Leylin rather shocked.

“Alright, I have to go!” Leylin made a helpless gesture and rose from the sofa.

“This...Sir! After talking for so long, I haven’t asked for your name yet?”
The young lady slapped her forehead.

“Leylin Farlier, just call me Leylin!”

“I...I’m Alicia, my house is located at Cecelia Main Street, 34. You’re welcomed to come over to play anytime!”

“Haha, I never thought that you might be so sought after by ladies huh!”
After the both of them left, Murphy made fun of Leylin.

“It’s only a young lady who likes to listen to stories. Have they arrived?”
Leylin asked.

“They’re all here, followed me!”

Murphy said, and brought Leylin to a small room beside the dance hall.

There were several acolytes already waiting in the room. Leylin could sense that their energy waves made them either Level 1 or Level 2 Acolytes.

Murphy obviously had the highest standing in this circle. When he entered, the acolytes all stood up to receive him.

“Alright!” Murphy swept his gaze around, “Let me introduce all of you to a new comrade! Leylin, he came from the west....”

After Leylin’s self-introduction was over, he could not help but ask Murphy, “Would a gathering like this cause an issue?”

“No worries, Jackson has reared some Beastmen and their noses are more sensitive than a dog’s. He already knew of our identities long ago. It’s just that all of us do not mention it explicitly!”

An acolyte with acne spoke, picking up a silver flagon and drinking from it from time to time.

“Oh! Mayflower, my Mayflower!” At this moment, a guy’s heavy panting sounded.

“Oh! Baby! So hot, so good!” A woman’s murmuring groans followed soon after.

It seems like there was a couple in ardent passion in the room next door.

Black lines formed on Murphy's face. He promptly swung his hand and a faint energy membrane enveloped the room isolating the noise of the outside world. "This is an accident, an accident!" His old face actually reflected his embarrassment.

Leylin wanted to faint, and there was a voice that repeatedly echoed in his mind. "Alright! I really shouldn't harbour any hope toward this group of acolytes. They are all just a bunch of trash that has completely lost their motivation and prudence!"

Chapter 59: Recording

Of course, on the surface, Leylin continued to pretend that he was naive as he began to converse in a friendly and amicable manner with this group of acolytes.

After the ball ended, the various horse carriages from different families set off. In a secret chamber within the City Lord's castle, the Viscount Jackson that Leylin saw today was talking to his subordinate.

"Is it confirmed?"

"I have detected the smell of a Mysterious Entity on his body. It has also been confirmed that he is extremely young!" The person who replied was draped in black robes; tufts of yellow fur could be glimpsed growing on his face.

"He is different from those befuddled acolytes. I do not think he will be retiring at such a young age. No matter if he is hiding from enemies or is concealing some other motive, his appearance is not good news for us!" A worried expression flickered through Jackson's steely face.

"Please pardon my forthrightness! Although we are able to deal with a Mysterious Entity right now, if we draw the ire of the rest of them, then whatever gains we achieve would not make up for the losses we may incur!"

The Half-Beast Man said slowly.

"Indeed!" Jackson became quiet for some time before giving out an order, "Do not incur the wrath of the other party, but never let him out of your sight!"

"I understand!" The Half-Beast Man disappeared into the darkness....

Ever since the ball, Leylin's agenda progressed extremely quickly. First, he borrowed 4500 gold coins from Murphy to buy the villa.

Afterwards, through the search done by Old Welker, Leylin chose a medicine shop that was about to close down but had a good geographic position. He took over it and obtained the shop permit.

With the unexpected enthusiastic help from the City Lord's castle, many procedures were actually settled in a matter of days.

Of course, Leylin discovered a few spies loitering around the medicine shop and the villa. However, these secretive parties exercised restraint against Leylin, and only made basic surveillance measures, not insinuating their influence onto Leylin's people. So, Leylin was not too bothered by their presence either.

Through Murphy, he hired a few pharmacists. Once the minimum standards for managing the medicine shop were met, he then completely handed over the reins to his core personnel and buried himself in his magic experiments.

After some renovation, the Knight's villa looked even newer than when it was brand new.

Previously, the Knight stayed in a three storey high, white-brick loft. Now, Leylin chose the few really big rooms for his private use.

The largest of these was used as his bedroom while the rooms on both sides served as a study room and an experiment lab. After putting in place a few detection spells he had learned at Abyssal Bone Forest Academy as an early warning grid, he passed down strict orders to his subordinates that without his order, no one was access to these rooms.

As for Greem and Fraser, they were posted near the master bedroom, as guards.

Fayern and other mercenaries were all given guard duty that rotated between the villa and the medicine shop. Leylin also gave out notices that serious and hardworking people may purchase small tracts of land on his property in 3 years later, permanent residence being a possibility for qualified persons or families. This was a very strong motivation for normal mercenaries and farmers.

Occasionally, Leylin looked through the windows and saw the serious hardworking serious mercenaries and farmers at work.

Because he always stayed at the villa, apart from the occasional visit to

Murphy's place, he rarely even went to the medicine shop. The rumors that were slowly spreading outside gained Leylin the reputation of a benevolent yet lazy villa owner.

"Young Master! The people from the medicine shop are here!" Anna's voice travelled through the door.

"Let them drop off the items in the living room and get Greem to move them to the experiment lab!" Leylin used his fingers to tap on the window pane, letting off a dull thudding noise.

"Your wish is my command!" The voice very soon was replaced with noises of things being moved about.

A dozen minutes later, Leylin came to the experiment lab.

Right now, the originally spacious experiment was littered with crates and a few wooden long tables. There were no windows in the room, and only a chandelier hung from the ceiling emitting a dim glow.

"Young Master! According to your orders, the medicine shop has acquired for you every type of herb that can be found in the market."

Anna lifted her dress and curtsied. She turned around and opened a red wooden crate revealing stacks of tied roots and stems, as well as many other herbs of indeterminate quantity and type. On the side of each stack or bundle was stuck a yellow paper note indicating the names of these herbs.

"Also, these are all the formulas that normal pharmacists own. They are only to normal humans.

Anna handed over yet another stack of dark yellow parchment notes.

Leylin's eyes skimmed over these and placed the list on one of the long tables.

"All of you may leave! Anna, stay behind!" Leylin waved towards Greem and his assistants.

Greem bowed and strode through the large heavy door, closing it behind him.

With a huge clang, the experiment lab's lighting turned even dimmer.

Leylin's brows furrowed. He took out a white coloured rock from his sack.

He then pressed his fingers lightly on the rock and a layer of bright white light radiated from it.

This was a Sunlight Rock. It is an item that magicians normally use during their travels. Slight radiation energy is contained in it that can let out a bright light for a prolonged period of time.

However, this radiation was extremely small and could only be used for illumination.

"This is much brighter than before!" Leylin was very satisfied as he looked at his well-lit surroundings. He then said to Anna, "Store the herbs well, and arrange them in an orderly fashion on the experiment table!"

"Yes." Anna hurried with her task.

Leylin casually picked up a purple coloured fruit. This fruit was the size of a thumb. It had lost all the water contained on its surface, thus its wrinkly exterior. Its weight was extremely light too.

"According to the medicine books delivered yesterday, this is the Warter Fruit, a type of fruit that grows in swamps."

Leylin placed a finger on the surface of the fruit, "A.I. Chip! Extract data and save it in your databanks!"

Right now he no longer had to ingest the herbs. He could determine their medicinal properties with a mere touch.

[Beep! Data extraction in progress!]

In Leylin's field of vision, the A.I. Chip overlaid a light blue screen, with many numbers and figures that changed constantly.

[Name: Warter Fruit. The area produced: Swamps. Uses: Mild poisonous properties with a numbing effect. Data stored!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned before a second had gone by.

“Very good. Again!” Leylin picked up another dried stem.

This was one of the reasons why Leylin had opened a medicine shop. Through his years of being an apprentice under Kroft, he recorded almost all the herbs used by Potioneering Masters, storing it into the A.I. Chip’s data banks.

However, those were special ingredients used by the Magi. As for herbs used by normal people, the A.I. Chip had no record of them. He now had to fill these missing bits of information.

Moreover, Leylin obtained two ancient potion formulas from his mentor and wanted to find substitutes for them. This could only be accomplished through innumerable experimentation and the consumption of huge amounts of precious and rare herbs. Even if Leylin had the A.I. Chip, he could not get around this step in the process.

With such a vast undertaking, Leylin could see no end to the task at hand even if he expended all his Magic Crystals.

However, if some ingredients could be substituted with herbs used by normal humans, he could economise by a huge margin.

“Although this might just be a daydream, the advantage was the potential savings a successful substitution promised. No matter how many experiments, it would still be considered a favorable exchange. Thus, by utilising the terrifying processing capabilities of the A.I. Chip, there is a glimmer of hope.

Leylin’s gaze was resolute, “Anyway, no matter how many ingredients I consume, they are just ingredients used by normal humans. I only need to spend some gold coins to be able to buy them again. This is much better than spending Magic Crystals!”

As for the investigation he commissioned, it had long since been tossed to the back of Leylin’s mind.

After all, there were still two odd years of time and as long as he fully carried it out within these two years his mission would be counted as accomplished.

Even if the mission were to fail, because Kroft was his teacher, the worst punishment would be a fine a few Magic Crystals. Hence, Leylin was not the least bit worried.

Time slowly passed, and the experiment lab became quiet. There were only the occasional scraping noises Anna made when placing herbs on the table.

Two days later, only Leylin remained in the lab. His face had a happy glow to it.

[3217 types of herbs successfully stored in the databank. Would you like to create a separate folder?]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"No! Combine them with the earlier record we made of some normal ingredients, establish a folder using the name "Compendium of ordinary ingredients"! Leylin ordered.

[Folder created...transferring relevant simulation models into the databank]

"Alright, next will be an analysis of the various combinations of medicinal properties. This is a huge project, even with the simulation I must still carry out experiments to verify the actual data and increase the probability of getting the results I desire."

Leylin thought.

"Young Master, it's time for dinner." Anna's muted voice sounded through the door.

"Okay, I'm coming out." When it was time to work, he worked; and when it was time to rest, he rested. This was his principle for living. He would seldom do things like neglect food and rest to conduct more experiments, unlike other magicians.

To him, along the path of pursuing truth, appropriate rest was allowed.

Leylin smiled and tidied up the experiment table before leaving the lab.

"When I am conducting important experiments, I will hang a sign on the

door. At that time, do not interrupt me no matter how many days I stay inside. Do you understand?” Leylin told Anna who was serving him.

“I’ll do as you bid, Young Master.”

“And what’s for dinner?” Leylin walked towards one side of the room. Although many masters practiced eating some meals together with their subordinates, this did not fit the customs of the Magi. So Leylin ate alone most of the time.

Several plates of food covered with hemispherical cloche tableware were arranged on a serving platter and placed on a small, round and white-colored table.

“It’s veal with purple vegetable soup and apple strawberry pie!” Anna said lightly, lifted the cover. A strong appetising aroma permeated the air.

“Not bad!” Leylin nodded his head as he let Anna place a napkin around his neck. He picked up the knife and dinner fork and began to eat.

“Also, remember to remind me tomorrow to set aside an hour of my time every day for Knight training!”

Leylin said to Anna, having suddenly recalled something. He had already ignited his internal life energy. As a Knight, he only needed to train some more to get his various stats above 3. Although Leylin planned to walk the path of a Magus, he had nothing to lose by increasing his stats.

Chapter 60: Hove Violet Leaves

The cold winter breeze was blowing and a bone-piercing chill permeated the air.

On a small field, Leylin was practising his cross-blade techniques while half-naked.

The muscles on his chest had become more defined. Although not very prominent, they were very robust, exuding a sense of vitality.

Forward! Uppercut! Pierce! Every move was a flawless, textbook-perfect execution.

After Leylin finished his training, Anna– who was observing from the side– hurriedly ran forward and handed him a white towel.

Leylin dried his sweat and called his stats onto his visual field.

[Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.2, Spiritual Force: 4.7, Magical Power: 4.0. Status: Healthy]

“A.I. Chip, what is the progress from today’s training?”

[Assessment in progress! Host’s internal life energy has been raised to the maximum, further increase is not possible at the moment!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“This day has finally arrived!” Leylin exclaimed, “Being able to maximize these stats was already good enough. Even if I were to spend more time, I will not necessarily gain anything more. From now on his Knight training could be put on hold. After all, I just need to practice my blade skills in the future, so they don’t get rusty. With the A.I. Chip, this is no challenge at all.”

After the early morning Knight training ended, Leylin took a brief respite and waited until he was fully recovered before burying his head in more experiments.

Within the lab, Leylin placed a violet leaf into a beaker and added to it one spatula of a green-black, ink-like solution. He then lit a flame

underneath the beaker.

The bright yellow fire continuously licked the bottom of the beaker, and purple bubbles began to froth.

“A.I. Chip! Record this down. Test 145, items of substitution: Hove Violet Leaves, Ninuo Root.”

[Record complete.] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned as it recorded in detail the various medicinal properties and reactions obtained through the experiment.

In this span of time, Leylin had already conducted more than a hundred experiments and made use of the A.I. Chip’s simulation feature over tens of thousands of times.

“This is the moment! I have a very strong premonition that it’ll be successful this time.”

As he murmured to himself, Leylin glanced at the volatile, green-and-purple-coloured mixture.

Using normal human herbs as ingredients to synthesize the medicinal properties of magic herbs just seemed to be a fantasy, besides there were countless hurdles to overcome.

Although these experiments required ingredients that could be bought with gold coins, some magic ingredients were still needed to catalyse certain aspects of the experiment.

These were all magic ingredients that Leylin had acquired from the Magus Market. He had now almost used up all of them all.

Without the A.I. Chip simulating a large proportion of his experiments, Leylin’s rate of consumption would far outstrip his current rate.

Synthesizing a few important ingredients could already dry up Leylin’s resources.

Crash!

The violet leaf in the beaker completely dissolved and the green coloured liquid became more translucent.

“This is it!” Leylin eyes widened. He picked up a glass rod and stirred in a counterclockwise direction at the same time extending a thread of Spiritual Force carefully into the contents of the beaker through the glass rod.

As the seconds became minutes, Leylin’s face grew more and more solemn. A few beads of sweat even began to form on his forehead.

Ding Ling Ling! A crisp ringing sounded from the beaker. At the heart of the faint green liquid, many black wormlike dots appeared and began continuously extending themselves in all directions.

Leylin’s expression did not change and his hands were as quick as a phantom, as he took a red-coloured pearl– lying on a petri dish nearby– and added it to the ongoing reaction.

Pi Pa! As the pearl was tossed inside, the black dots in the beaker quickly retreated and the faint green liquid became fainter and fainter, completely turning transparent.

[Beep! Azure Potion main ingredient substitution succeeded! Assessed as capable of standing in for 45.8% of the main ingredient’s medicinal properties.]

This prompt was extremely pleasing to Leylin’s ears.

“After combining several conjectures into tens of thousands of the A.I. Chip’s simulations, I have finally succeeded!” A corner of Leylin’s lips quirked up into a smile and he clenched his fist tightly.

At the same time, Leylin deeply lamented about the fact even though he was a Potioneering Master, it was difficult to modify formulas.

He had the original formula, and the A.I. Chip to run simulations for him. This saved a lot of time and ingredients. Even so, he took this long to successfully modify the formula. Instead, if it was his Senior Merlin, he might not even be able to afford the cost of the ingredients, and that also true for the powerful family that supported him behind the scenes.

Squandering precious ingredients for a gamble with a chance of less than one in ten thousand was simply illogical to the typical Magus.

Moreover, during the process of experimentation, each failure would be an agonizing psychological burn that would singe the psyche of a Potioneering Master, day and night. If one could actually change the formula, then that would be out of pure luck, even for Potioneering Grandmasters who had abundant experiences and skill.

However, once the formula was changed, it would lead to huge profits, especially for a potion that could raise Spiritual Force.

“A.I. Chip! If I were to substitute the original ingredients, how much will the retained effect be?”

[Comparison in progress. Databank information is insufficient. Establishing conjecture. Simulating...Beep! The new formula will retain roughly 35.4% of the original’s effectiveness.]

“This is on the low side, but I have no choice. The substituted ingredients are mainly normal ones even commoners can obtain. Quantity can compensate whatever is lacking in quality.”

Leylin analysed the pros and cons of the new Azure Potion, “Based on this, the price could be in excess of 100,000 Magic Crystals. A pity, this formula was achieved with my current stats. For other people, the effect would be extremely hard to predict. Moreover, the procedures are extremely complicated and some steps are impossible to do without the A.I. Chip. Other Potioneering Masters, will definitely fail many times when brewing this potion.”

In fact, it was clear to Leylin that even if he became an official Magus, once others became aware of this formula, he would not be able to hold onto it. After all, the ingredients for this new Spiritual Force formula could be bought in mass amounts. It would be game-changing for the lower levels of the various academies and factions. None of them would willingly let go of such an opportunity.

After making up his mind, he burned the formula completely into his memory. The potions he would brew would only be for personal consumption. Leylin then tidied up all traces of his experiments, before stepping through the door of the experiment lab.

“Young Master.” Anna, who was dozing on a chair nearby, got up in a hurry.

“Housekeeper Welker has been looking for you for two hours. There appears to be some crisis at the medicine shop!”

“Oh? Let him come to my study after dinner!” Leylin took off the soiled, sterile robe designed especially for his experiments and changed into more casual soft clothing.

“Apart from Welker, are there any other recent incidents?”

Leylin lounged on a nearby sofa. On the table beside it were purple grape-like fruits and some red berries, which Leylin usually liked to eat.

“Knight Fraser came over earlier and said that the reward mission you commissioned has some developments!”

Although Leylin did not give a high priority to the academy’s mission, some superficial work still had to be done. He, thus, issued a mission notice to the mercenaries and adventurers of Extreme Night City to scout the situation within the depths of the Dark Night Woods, the reward being 1000 gold pieces. It seems that the mission notice was beginning to bear fruit.

After dinner, Leylin received Old Welker and Fraser in his study.

Fraser wore leather armour and was as robust as ever. As for Old Welker, he looked careworn and his body had hunched over.

Old Welker bowed towards Leylin, “Respected Young Master, our earnings from the medicine shop this month is....”

“No need for that!” Leylin leaned against the study table behind him and waved his hands interrupting Old Welker’s speech, “Pass down instructions to buy all Hove Violet Leaves, Ninuo Roots and Three Flowered Snake Fruits....”

“Then Young Master, how many of them are we buying?”

“All!”

“All?” Old Welker raised his head and looked at Leylin in astonishment.

“That’s right. The three ingredients that I’ve stated, you must buy all of them in the market, and store them at the villa.” Leylin remained indifferent as he said this.

“But...may I remind the Young Master, the medicine shop business is not doing well, together with the herbs that Young Master purchased from time to time, our balance books right now are already in a precarious state....” If not for the villa forking out gold coins all the time, the shop would have been bankrupt by now– this was something, though, that Old Welker did not dare to voice out so he kept it to himself.

“I know that, but you must remember this. If the gold coins are not sufficient, you may take more from Anna. These purchases must not be discontinued. These are my standing orders.” Leylin steepled his fingers. Although he was approximately 15 years old, he could apparently impose his will.

“Al...Alright! I got it.” A layer of cold sweat beaded Old Welker’s forehead. He immediately bowed then left.

He was not the same as Anna and the three men who were aware of Leylin’s identity. It was only natural that he was a little apprehensive about the way Leylin handled financial matters.

However, for Leylin, the only reason he set up a household was to serve his own purposes and to help him with miscellaneous tasks such as the collection of ingredients. So the loss of some gold coins was no big deal.

Anything and everything was to pave the way for his progress to become a Magus. Everything else was a nuisance.

“Although I have walked on the path of a Magus, it is just to obtain freedom and a worry-free life. It is a pity, though, that my current strength is far from enough.”

Leylin sighed deeply. He appeared to have become a person of consequence within Extreme Night City, largely owing to his having a villa and servants. However, for Magi, such things were illusory soap bubbles that could completely vanish with a gentle tap.

The collateral damage of a battle between any two official Magi would definitely be a deadly situation for the current Leylin.

What was the point of fleeting comfort when life or death was not entirely guaranteed?

“More importantly, if the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was totally defeated, then Sage Gotham’s Hut would perhaps classify all of the faculty and students of the academy as fugitives. I would have to abandon everything and flee.”

“In this chaotic era, only one’s own strength can ensure freedom.”

Chapter 61: Brey Canyon

After Old Welker left, only Leylin and Fraser remained in the room.

The Knight knew of Leylin's status as a magician, so Leylin's attitude was a little more lax too.

Half lying on the recliner, Leylin's eyes squinted, "What is the update on the withering woods?"

Fraser lowered his head to signify his respect, as he said, "Respected Young Master, according to your orders, I sent many scouts out to reconnoiter the withering woods. At the price of 1 dead and 2 seriously injured, I finally uncovered some clues."

Recent events at the withering woods had led to a direct decrease in herb harvesting. As of this moment, several huge factions had also sent scouts with the same intent. But even after having sent many scouts, they were all ambushed.

According to a few eyewitnesses, they had suffered from some ridiculous attacks from a black entity within the woods. So far, it was only known that that entity was an extremely swift monster. Apart from that description, nothing else was known.

"Go on." Leylin's voice was extremely calm.

"One bandit was finally able to see clearly what that monster looked like, during one of its ambushes. This is the sketch he drew."

The Knight handed over a sketch to Leylin.

Leylin took a look. On the sketch paper was a kind of four-legged, snake-like creature. Its body was littered with scales, it had a forked tongue, and on its crown was a small horn.

"What else did the bandit say?" Leylin asked.

"He said that this creature was about two metres in length. Its whole body was a yellowish-brown and it was extremely fast." Fraser added.

"It had such an appearance?" Leylin said as hurriedly recalled an

illustrated handbook of unusual creatures he had seen back at the academy, “It’s rather similar to the Blue Lizard, but the colour is not right. It also appears to be similar to a snake-type!”

“However, the fact that a few scouts were able to escape shows that this creature is not very dangerous. A Level 2 Acolyte should be able to deal with it.” Leylin calmed down.

At the moment, though, he still did not have any intention of settling this personally. Apart from the potion experiments entering a crucial stage, the withering woods event had not been investigated fully. Unless it was absolutely necessary, Leylin would not risk his life for unknown dangers.

“Pass these orders down. No matter who, as long as they can capture or slay this creature, I will reward them with 2000 gold pieces! Also, any materials from the creature, be it scales, blood, skin or horn, I will give an additional 200 gold pieces for them.”

Leylin said blandly.

“Yes, Milord, allow me to issue these mission orders.” Fraser bowed.

“Go.” Leylin waved his hands. Fraser bowed again before striding off.

.....

Three days later, east of Extreme Night City, in a small canyon.

Leylin wore black robes and walked on the mountainous path along the canyon. Against a person like him with all of the stats above 3, these obstructions were not an issue at all. He trotted on as if taking a leisurely walk in his backyard.

Behind him followed an armoured Greem, who also wore a mask with his helmet to conceal his appearance.

“We’re here! Brey Canyon Market!” Leylin said softly as he felt the energy waves fluctuating in the vicinity.

This market was on the map that Bicky had given to Leylin. It was situated close to Extreme Night City and served as a resource exchange

point. Previously when Leylin chose the mission, part of his intent was to visit this market.

“Halt!” A girl’s voice rang. Leylin turned towards the direction of the voice. He discovered a little girl, riding a mountain goat, moving towards them.

The mountain goat’s four hooves skipped and hopped along the cliff. It actually moved very quickly, reaching Leylin’s side in a few moments.

“You are a magician?” The little girl sized up Leylin and asked indifferently.

“Yes, I am a wandering magician. I wish to enter the market. This is my servant!” Leylin pointed to Greem behind him.

“This servant’s strength has already reached that of a Knight’s? You’re strong!” The little girl gave a thumbs up, “The fee is 1 Magic Crystal each for you and your servant. If you think that’s expensive then he can wait outside.”

“No need for that!” Leylin took out 2 Magic Crystals and handed it over to the girl.

“I wish to know where in this canyon I can obtain the latest information!” Leylin asked casually.

“You’re new here, aren’t you? In here, I have the most updated news!” The little girl smugly tilted her head up and her face had an expression that said, “You may beg me for it.”

Leylin was rather speechless. From the A.I. Chip’s scan, this little girl was a Level 3 Acolyte. Her strength was actually higher than Murphy’s. She was definitely no longer a youth, appearances aside. It was hard to figure out why she maintained the countenance of a child.

“Could this respected guardian tell me what the price would be in order to obtain some news?” Leylin bowed slightly.

“You are rather pleasing to my eyes, so 1 news item in return for 1 Magic Crystal!” The little girl put on an expression that looked as if she thought

highly of Leylin.

“Alright then!” Leylin smiled wryly and handed over a Magic Crystal.

“What is the progress of the war at Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?”

“Recently, magicians who bought news from me have also enquired about this.” The little girl scratched her head, “According to the latest updates from yesterday, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy still persists due to their reliance on their magic spell formation. Acolyte fatalities have not been low, however.

Upon saying this, the little girl murmured, “Calm down! Calm down! The war’s conflagration will not extend to here. There aren’t even that many reliable resource points in this place, so how can it attract the attention of the academies. Only acolytes might come here occasionally.”

“I know that. Then do you know the reason for this war?” Leylin handed yet another Magic Crystal.

The little girl hurriedly took it, “Who knows? It seemed to be for a sceptre or some jewel....”

“So it’s like this!” Leylin nodded his head, indicating he had nothing more to ask.

“Young man, I hope you find what you need in this canyon, without any problems!” The little girl waved her hands and patted the goat she rode. It resumed its hopping, and very soon they disappeared from his sight and into the canyon.

“Let us also go in!” Leylin said to Greem behind him.

Coming to the canyon this time, Leylin was on an extremely tight schedule. A number of his experiments have reached a crucial stage. The modified Azure Potion formula was also nearing completion.

It was a pity that some of the magic ingredients he stockpiled before had been depleted. He, thus, had no choice but to venture from his home.

“Soon! I only need to complete the supplementary ingredients, and then begin to try brewing the Azure Potion. By then my Spiritual Force, which

has been slowly increasing, will receive a huge boost!” Leylin eyes seemed to glow with fire.

Following the narrow route along the precipice, Leylin carefully entered the depths of the ravine. In this resource exchange point, the stores were all set up within the holes that dotted the cliff, a little like the caves of primitive men.

Leylin walked into a potions shop called “Langford’s Potions”. The cave was extremely dark, only a few rocks radiating green light illuminated it.

These rocks seemingly made every item inside the cave emanate a green glow making the scene look extremely gloomy.

“Hehehe! What do you want?” A dark and sorrowful laughter could be heard.

From behind the counter, an old dwarf walked out. His face was full of wrinkles, was bald and most of his teeth had fallen off too.

“I require 20 standard servings each of Tendril Leaves, Water Crystal Fruits and Dragon-Eyed Grapeseed!”

Leylin enunciated slowly.

“Oh!” The old dwarf stood rooted to the floor not moving, “These are all potion ingredients and their prices will not be ordinary! Are you a Potioneering Master?”

“That does not seem to concern you in any way.” Leylin’s brows furrowed, this old geezer’s attitude made him rather displeased.

“Young man! Could it be that no one taught you to respect the elderly?” The dwarf geezer smiled and the pupils of his eyes seemed to swirl continuously.

[Warning! Warning! The target’s body is radiating magical energy waves!] The A.I. Chip’s alert sounded.

Greem who was behind Leylin fell without making a sound.

“Damn it!” Leylin cursed. A few acolytes and even official Magi, because of getting injured while advancing or due to being contaminated by

radiation from experimenting, caused them to become mentally unstable. They often exhibited craziness. Obviously, Leylin met one such today.

According to the A.I. Chip's scan, the dwarf opposite him was a Level 2 Acolyte, but his Spiritual Force was much higher than Leylin's.

The magical power in Leylin's body circulated, allowing him to escape from the old geezer's spell, "An Illusionary spell? Doesn't seem like it! It should be some passive spell if it's like this!"

Leylin's robes shook, and a fire red potion was now in his hands. His whole body let off a very dangerous feeling.

"Hahaha...Just like this! Just like this! Death is beautiful, and is descending upon us soon!" The dwarf geezer laughed manically and danced in joy.

"This person has gone completely crazy!" Leylin got ready to throw the explosive potion in his hands, and to find an escape route.

He did not want to engage in a broil with a madman without cause nor reason. Besides, winning will not net him any gains.

"That's enough, Langford!" Just when the dwarf geezer was preparing another spell, a voice travelled over. It was the guardian, the voice of the little girl who rode the mountain goat.

"Marissa! I've had enough of you!" The dwarf geezer howled loudly, and he made an incantation. Black coloured smoke congealed in his hands forming a massive black ball.

The surrounding shelves that held various ingredients were on the verge of collapse under the energy waves emitted by the black ball.

"Damn it! Langford's time is here again. Which one of you can help me?" The little girl's voice travelled over again, this time sounding rather exasperated.

"Foos!" "Ocker!"

Two extremely short incantations travelled over and gave Leylin a shock, "They're all Level 3 Acolytes! I heard that not only can the Spiritual Force

of Level 3 Acolytes support a few Rank 0 spells, they have also grasped the technique of phrase casting, which shortens incantations to a few syllables achieving near instantaneous casting.”

After the few syllables were cast, many green vines appeared within the cave. Some of the huge vines held Langford’s hands and feet together.

Langford roared continuously. He prepared to toss the black-coloured smoke ball out.

At that moment, a red coloured arrow ripped through the air and flew directly at the heart of the ball.

Poof! The surroundings let off a light ring as the black smoke and the red arrow continued to counteract each other before finally disappearing into nothingness.

“A positive energy arrow.” Leylin’s pupils contracted, “The Level 3 Acolyte who struck from the outside, no matter their battle ability or spell comprehension, they have far surpassed me!”

Chapter 62: Modified Potion

“What are you guys doing? Put me down quickly!”

At this moment, Langford, who was trapped, transformed rapidly.

The maniacal look on his face vanished, and his eyes showed sanity. The originally bald head had grown a large amount of green hair that quickly extended to his ankles.

“Look his hair is already growing, it seems like he has regained his sanity!” The little girl’s voice rang out and the green vines were retracted.

“Langford! You actually did not master anticipating when your episodes of insanity would trigger. You even broke the rules of the canyon by startling our customer! You better obtain our guest’s forgiveness. Otherwise, you will be chased out of this place!”

Two voices gradually left, and Leylin did not see the other two Level 3 Acolytes, even after the battle had ended. Moreover, even the interior of the cave remained unharmed.

Upon noticing that something was amiss, the dwarf hurriedly bowed before Leylin, “My apologies, Sir! Due to some mental strain, there are times when I’m unable to control myself. I hope you will allow me to make amends for the inconvenience I caused.”

Langford was a little dispirited, “Earlier I really thought I had the timing down. Alas, I never anticipated that it would flare up more often than before, who knows if I really have to move out....”

Leylin too did not know how to react in this situation. He could only say, “Then please wake my servant up. Also, hurry and bring the ingredients I requested!”

“Of course!” The dwarf geezer dragged his long shaggy hair and stood in front of Greem. He lifted Greem’s eyelid to have a look, “Your servant has only fainted temporarily. He will recover after a short rest!”

He then took some brown coloured powder from his robes and made Greem swallow them. Not long after, the burly fellow woke up.

Langford then brought out a small box and handed it to Leylin, “To compensate for your trouble. Furthermore, I can give you a 50% discount!”

“...” Leylin was a little speechless, but he still handed the Magic Crystals to the geezer and gave the box to Greem for him to carry before he bade farewell.

As they said their goodbyes, Langford bowed deeply again, “If you still wish to trade with me, please remember, only when my hair has grown past my ankle, will I be in a period of sanity. The rest of the time, avoid me for the time being.

Leylin nodded his head and left the canyon with Greem.

Originally, he was in a mood to browse around. However, after this incident, he had completely lost interest. Who knew if there were other crazy people in this canyon.

The path of a Magus is treacherous, each failure in advancement—be it through an experiment or as a side effect of spell radiation—can cause irreversible damage to those involved, even costing them their lives sometimes.

Adding prolonged longevity and immense power, over time a Magus’ character would undergo some kind of change; some may even develop mental problems.

Leylin thought of Langford and the two Level 3 Acolytes who had rendered their assistance. The feeling they gave Leylin was completely different from that of the acolytes of Extreme Night City.

To put things in perspective, it was like a pack of wolves against lambs.

“It seems like real magicians very seldom prefer to stay around humans, and they predominantly stay in rural areas.

Seeing the might of those two Level 3 Acolytes today made Leylin somewhat more zealous, “Once I have successfully brewed the Azure Potion, I too can quickly advance to that level!”

.....

In the lab, under the brilliant light, Leylin took and stared at a test tube from the table. It continuously bubbled with blue froth.

With extremely firm hands, he shook it according to a mysterious rhythm.

The blue bubbles in the test tube continued to froth upwards then vanish as it reached the brim.

[The reaction in the potion has become extremely stable, and is estimated to exceed the threshold in 3 Minutes 24 Seconds!] The A.I. Chip's observation alerted.

After reporting this condition, a timer at a bottom corner of Leylin's visual field started the countdown.

When the countdown reached 0, Leylin immediately used the ancient Byron language and muttered an incantation, "This is the azure blue ocean, come! My little babies!"

His other hand immediately dropped some of the blue crystals he was holding, into the test tube.

Weng Weng! The test tube started to tremble.

A few streaks of a brilliant blue light flew out of its mouth and rotated around it turning into little blue coloured mermaids.

These little mermaids had a girl's torso and were only the size of Leylin's thumb. On their chests hung two shell pieces while the bottom half of their body was that of a fish's tail. At this moment, they were holding hands together, circling the test tube, singing and dancing.

Their sweet distinct elegant voices sang and it reverberated within the room strumming on Leylin's heartstrings.

"The final step! Resist the alluring voices of the mermaids!" Leylin's expression tightened.

Rumours had it that the singing voices of mermaids not only have terrifying bewitching energy, but these voices were also used to prey on sailors in the deep seas. Many suspected these mermaids as main culprits

behind the creation of ghost ships!

Right now, Leylin felt a strong impulse to throw everything he owned to the side, and dive straight into the ocean.

“This is only an illusion. It only has the 10% of an actual mermaid’s might. If these were real or were cast by mermaid Magi, what would the effects be?” Leylin clenched his teeth and gave off a layer of grey-black light from his body deflecting these voices.

“Manse!” After waiting for roughly 30 seconds, Leylin suddenly blurted out a word.

Chi Chi! Black coloured needles appeared piercing through the chests of those little mermaids.

Agonised expressions could be seen on the pretty faces of the mermaids. Suddenly, they dissolved and turned into a few drops of blue liquid that returned into the test tube.

Huge amounts of bubbles, crystals and the drops of liquid rapidly merged and at that instant turned into a test tube half filled with a dark blue potion.

* Crash! Leylin shook the test tube lightly. From within the test tube came the crashing sound like that of great surging waves in an ocean.

[The modified Azure Potion has been brewed successfully.] The A.I. Chip indicated.

“A.I. Chip, how potent is this potion compared to the original formulation?” Leylin asked.

[Beep! Collecting the vapours. Analysing and comparing data... Estimated to have 33% of the original potion’s effect.]

Although the previous estimate was 35.4%, there would be some minute differences during the actual brewing. Furthermore, it was the first time he did this experiment, so achieving this effect made Leylin very content.

“A pity that the consumptions of Hove Violet Leaves for this process is too high!” Leylin looked at the remnants of the Hove Violet Leaves lying

on the side.

Only the essence from the middle of a whole piece of Hove Violet Leaf could be used for the potion. Apart from that, many complicated steps also had to be accomplished resulting in the high consumption rate.

He estimated that even after Welker bought all of the ingredients available, it would only allow Leylin to brew the potion another 30 to 40 times.

“Now, I wonder what the effects of this ancient potion are?”

Leylin’s eyes flashed in anticipation. He directly walked to an empty space and sat cross-legged on the floor. He then poured the Azure Potion into his mouth.

“It’s a little bitter, and has a rather fish-like odour.” The muscles on Leylin’s face twitched, “The palate of these ancient Magi was just so-so....”

“According to the A.I. Chip’s calculations, the best complement to potions that increase Spiritual Force is meditation!”

Leylin thought of this before completely entering into a meditative mode.

This time, the meditations effect was very obviously different from before. With a vague concept of time, Leylin felt like he was in the middle of an azure blue ocean and boundless blue sea water squeezed his middle almost suffocating him.

When seen from the outside, the muscles on Leylin’s handsome face twitched, and drops of sweat continuously dripped out.

Almost two hours later, Leylin abruptly opened both of his eyes.

“Phew! The feeling from meditating like this is several times more uncomfortable than before!” Leylin shook his head.

The meditation of an acolyte, more often than not, led to exhaustion afterwards. However, right now Leylin felt his whole body aching, especially his brain, which felt like someone took a large metal hammer and kept smashing it. Even now he was somewhat dizzy.

“A.I. Chip. Display my stats.” Leylin ordered.

Immediately, a blue screen appeared before Leylin and showed a stream of numbers.

[The Host’s Spiritual Force has been detected as undergoing a rapid rise!]

[Host is under the influence of an unknown, Spiritual Force increasing by 0.01]

[Spiritual Force increasing by 0.01]

[The meditative state is deepening. Effect optimised. Spiritual Force increasing by 0.03]

[Spiritual Force has reached the threshold, increasing by 0.05]

.....

[Meditative state ended, Host’s stats undergoing change. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.2, Spiritual Force: 4.9, Magical Power: 4.0. Status: Healthy]

Rows of data were displayed, and Leylin discovered at the end that his Spiritual Force had increased by 0.2.

“This figure!” Leylin’s eyes widened, “If the original ingredients were used, doesn’t that mean that I can increase Spiritual Force by about 0.7 at a time! It is indeed worthy to be called an ancient potion. Even for official Magi, this is a pretty good outcome!”

“A.I. Chip, assuming there are enough potions on hand, how much time will I need to reach 7 Spiritual Force points?” Leylin asked.

[Inputting effect of Azure Potion, establishing simulation, factoring tolerance principle, calculation in progress....]

The A.I. Chip began calculating, dozens of seconds later, the A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

[According to the Host’s resistance to medicinal properties, it is estimated that the Host will achieve 7 Spiritual Force points after two

months!]

The necessary conditions to advance to Level 3 Acolyte was to have mastery over at least 2 spell models, a Spiritual Force of 7 and to use a reactive elixir.

Leylin had gotten the spell models and reactive elixirs long ago. What kept him back was this Spiritual Force bottleneck.

“A pity, though! The success rate for brewing the Azure Potion is extremely horrifying. Even if it’s me, I will at most succeed one out of ten times!”

“Hove Violet Leaves. I need huge amounts of Hove Violet Leaves. If it cannot be done, I must organise a trading party to acquire them from other cities.”

Leylin clenched his teeth. His eyes revealed obvious desire.

“Young Master!” As he walked out from the lab, Anna, who was waiting outside, greeted him immediately.

“Pass these orders down. From now on, our establishment will cease all operations and devote all resources towards purchasing Hove Violet Leaves. Moreover, Fraser is to make a trip to nearby cities to acquire them!” Leylin’s expression was extremely grim.

“Yes!” This was the first time Anna had seen this side of Leylin, so she hurriedly retreated.

Chapter 63: Mutated Organism

The bitter cold of winter passed, and the weather began to get warmer.

Standing on the villa, Leylin could already see the minuscule green dots from afar. On nearby fields, there were even farmers laboriously working.

“A year has passed unknowingly; I am already 15 years old now!” Leylin’s hands pressed on the windowsill, and his eyes seemed to be disconcerted.

All of the Hove Violet Leaves available in Extreme Night City had been bought by him. With continuous brewing, he managed to get 5 Azure Potions, bringing his Spiritual Force to 5.8.

Unfortunately, any potion, when used excessively, would produce a resistance towards it, and the effects would be reduced over time. Originally, he had estimated that his Spiritual Force would reach a value of 5.9 with the resources available. However, in reality, it fell short by 0.1 without any apparent cause.

“Right now, I can only place my hopes on Fraser and the rest who have gone to neighbouring cities to purchase the ingredient.”

Leylin rested by the windowsill. He stretched his hands and plucked a bunch of red berries from the table munching on them as snacks.

“Compared to other acolytes, however, my progress is akin to flying. After all, even the heir of a large family cannot use potions endlessly. What’s more, these are precious potions that could increase Spiritual Force.”

Within a month, Leylin already chased up to the fifth-grade acolytes who had pulled away from him over a year ago.

“It’s fortunate that I’m outside the academy. Only then am I able to pursue my experiments without fearing of the consequences, and use potions such as these!” Leylin was suddenly rejoicing over the benefits that the war brought him.

“However, even if the war ends now, I wouldn’t dare go back. I must, at least, wait until the 3 years mission duration is up. Only then will my

excuse be plausible.

At that moment, Leylin estimated that he would already be a Level 3 Acolyte. Apart from the professors, he would be considered to have power, and would be regarded as a more important member. Moreover, with these years as cover, he would have enough time to think up a few explanations to cover his tracks.

“Master! An emissary from the City Lord has arrived with an invitation.” Anna knocked on the door, entering only after getting Leylin’s permission.

Because of some Magus’ doings, her face looked as youthful as ever, never changing.

“An invitation?” Leylin was a little skeptical. He did not have many relations with Viscount Jackson all this while.

After looking the missive over, “A gathering? On the invitation, it was specifically stated that Murphy and his circle of people were invited, which are all acolytes!”

Leylin surmised, “Could it be? Some mysterious thing has happened that requires the help of magicians?”

“Anna, prepare a horse carriage and a set of formal clothes for me. I have to leave for a while.”

Leylin said this without giving it another thought. Towards the Grand Knight, Viscount Jackson, who was also the Lord of Extreme Night City, it was difficult for an acolyte to interfere with his might. Therefore, Leylin did not want to be on bad terms with him.

Moreover, due to the decreased supply of Hove Violet Leaves recently, Leylin did not have any other important things to do, so he could make time for this gathering.

“I’ll have a look, and I haven’t seen Murphy for some time now!”

In the heart of Extreme Night City, the castle-like building which was built using grey rocks was extremely magnificent. There were many soldiers patrolling the area, revealing its prestige.

Ta-Ta! A black horse carriage suddenly halted in front of the City Lord's castle. The carriage door opened, and a brown-haired noble youth stepped down from it. He looked rather thin, but his bright eyes were filled with vigour.

At that same instant, another horse carriage, made of reddish brown wood, halted alongside it too. From it stepped out a white bearded geezer who was carrying a book. He radiated a scholarly aura.

After seeing Leylin, every wrinkle on the old geezer's face loosened as he smiled. He took the initiative and spread his arms out, "It's been a long time, my friend!"

"I'm very pleased to meet you, Scholar Murphy!" Leylin smiled as he gently hugged the old man.

His relationship with Murphy was pretty good. Although this old geezer had a few demerits, but it was undeniable that some of his experiences were a source of great enlightenment for Leylin. When Leylin had first arrived in Extreme Night City, Murphy had also given much help to Leylin.

Both of them conversed casually. They flashed their invitation cards at the same time as they went past the guarded entrance.

A person, rather like a butler, led Leylin and Murphy through the garden and brought them to a small-sized living room.

Several acolyte residents were already there and Leylin went forward to greet them.

There was a circular sofa in the middle of the living room, with a mahogany table at its centre. It seemed to suggest equality between status and levels.

"Welcome, my friends!"

The tough looking Viscount Jackson entered. He looked the same, to Leylin, as he looked a year ago. Time did not seem to have caused any changes in him, apart from a few more strands of hair white behind his ears that is.

“City Lord!” The acolytes all nodded their heads.

“Come, no need for formalities! Sit!” Viscount Jackson casually sat on the sofa and serving maids that wore low cut blouses served some red tea as refreshments, with matching flavoured cake and biscuit snacks.

“Why does the atmosphere seem to be like a conference and afternoon tea?” Although he had his doubts, Leylin never revealed anything.

Viscount Jackson and the acolytes sat in a circle, and, from time to time, they discussed the latest news. On the whole, the atmosphere felt extremely amiable.

“A pity, Viscount Jackson is known to be a cold-blooded person. I heard that to suppress a riot, he immediately ordered the execution of a whole village, even hanging all its resident’s heads on wooden stakes....”

Leylin still put on a friendly mannerism, but deep down he exclaimed, “As expected, to interact harmoniously, one must first have the prerequisite of equal power!”

“Yes, speaking of Baron Fey, he has recently been distressed about the issues of the medicine shop!” Viscount Jackson inadvertently spoke of this while chatting idly.

“We have also heard of the withering woods of Dark Night Woods for some time now. Only that we have not arrived at any solution yet!” An acolyte sitting at the side spoke, playing at being a character interested in delving deeper into this topic.

Murphy’s brows furrowed, “I believe that my lord Viscount will definitely have a solution, right?”

However, Viscount Jackson smiled wryly, “My friends! I have already used ravens to inform the royal family, but up to now I have not received any reply....I am completely at a loss about what to do in this situation!”

“Royal family?” Leylin’s heart thumped, the royal family behind the Poolfield Kingdom was supported by Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. The relationship between the two parties was extremely intricate. This mission appearing in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was finally no longer strange

anymore.

Speaking of which, he was even the representative sent by Abyssal Bone Forest Academy to remedy this problem, but he had been lackadaisical about it. He had finally forced Viscount Jackson to have no solution but to request help from this group of acolytes.

Although deep within he smiled cynically, on the surface Leylin still put on the same front. He picked up the cup of hot tea and sipped, without any intention of owning up.

“Is it only a high levelled creature that had mutated? Could it be that Sire cannot even resolve this?” A red-haired, middle-aged man asked.

Leylin recognised this person; he had opened an apparel store in Extreme Night City and many clothes in his villa had been purchased from there.

The city’s residents knew that the owner of this clothing store was a friendly, middle-aged man, who even has a beautiful daughter. But they never knew that he was a magician.

“Truth be told, I have already struck against it once before! I have even killed a lizard type creature, but it was of no help towards this withering woods case!”

Viscount Jackson flicked his hand.

“Right now, the withering woods area has expanded to a span of about two villages. If not resolved, sooner or later, it will encompass the whole of Dark Night Woods. When that happens, obtaining another herb from it would be only a dream!”

Viscount Jackson clenched his fists.

The herb industry was the pillar of Extreme Night City’s economy. Every year the City Lord’s castle gained a lot from the high taxes it imposed on these trades. Right now its tax income had been drastically reduced. It was no wonder that Viscount Jackson was unable to sit still.

“Could you let us have a look at the composition of some of that lizard’s

body parts?” Murphy asked.

“Yes!” Viscount Jackson clapped his hands, and a golden yellow-haired maid brought forward a silver tray. Displayed on it were some brown-yellow scales.

The surrounding acolytes all picked up a piece; Leylin too placed one in his hands.

“A.I. Chip! Scan!” The brown yellow scales were the size of a thumb, cold to the touch.

[Suspected to be the scale of a mutated creature, estimated to be a mutation of a lizard type in the Poolfield Kingdom! The surface emits mild radiation, the quality is a mess, extractable materials have been destroyed, useless as component material!]

The A.I. Chip relayed the information after the scanning.

“No wonder the magicians in the canyon did not react! There was simply no use of this creature’s body parts to magicians. It’s the whole body is not even worth a Magic Crystal. Who would do such a strenuous yet unrewarding task!”

Leylin was somewhat enlightened. To Magi, benefits were paramount. They will not do anything that reaped no benefits.

The withering woods case happened on the boundaries of Extreme Night City. If there were any benefits or some magician who liked the creatures material, it would have long been resolved by the acolytes at the resource point in the ravine.

Their letting this current state of affairs continues only meant one thing: there were no benefits at all from solving the withering woods debacle, only trouble. If there were any benefits, they were too small to cover the potential losses a venture would incur. This was why it had not been resolved after all this while.

“What a pity! It is not a high-level creature that magicians need, just a mutated organism, which has no use to them!” Murphy said after picking up a magnifying glass like object and scrutinising the scale for some time.

He reached the same conclusion as Leylin.

“How is that? Any solutions?” Viscount Jackson put on a hopeful expression and looked at his guests.

“Most mutated organisms were caused by long-term exposure from its surroundings. Without further detail and research, I cannot make arrive at any conclusion from just this! Moreover, I don’t think that this creature is the main culprit for the withering woods.”

Murphy shook his head.

“I am willing to give 30 Magic Crystals to every person, in addition to 5000 gold coins to ask you guys to scout the area. How about that? This is my request, on account of us being old friends!’

Viscount Jackson looked the people in the circle and saw that the other acolytes too lacked interest. He could not help but clench his teeth as he stated this.

“Since it is troublesome for my lord Viscount, I definitely will not refuse!”

Murphy said somewhat grudgingly.

Chapter 64: Withering Woods

Pressured by Viscount Jackson's aggressive request, very soon the other acolytes agreed too.

After all, they had been in his territory for so long, and he was also a Grand Knight, so it would be awkward if they were to decline.

However there was an exception, the acolyte with acne, whom Leylin saw before, refused without hesitation.

Finally, the Viscount's gaze focused on Leylin, "How about you, Mister Leylin?"

Viscount Jackson had some reservation towards Leylin. This was because the timing of Leylin's arrival was a coincidence which made him guess that this acolyte was the emissary who had accepted the royal family's mission.

It was a pity that ever since Leylin had arrived, he had spent most of his time in the manor, and rarely left the place. Neither were there any magicians who came forward seeking revenge on him, so it seemed like this acolyte was truly a reclusive.

If it were not for the fact that Leylin gave orders so a mission to the withering woods would go forth, Viscount Jackson would have been utterly disappointed.

"After all, it has to be done, and going in as a party is better!"

Leylin thought deep down, yet on the surface he appeared extremely hesitant, "Recently I have been researching potions, and am extremely busy. Some of my experiments have reached a crucial stage...."

"Still, I beseech Mister Leylin to take time out for this!" Viscount Jackson said suddenly, "I know that you have been buying Hove Violet Leaves en masse recently. This ingredient is rather rare, and other cities as well do not have too much of this in their reserves. However, our castle has a storehouse. If Mister Leylin agrees to go on this scouting trip, I am willing to add those in our reserves as a reward!"

“Hove Violet Leaves?” Leylin eyes flashed; this was an unexpected surprise. He estimated this offer to be Viscount Jackson’s threshold. Leylin appeared to ‘struggle’ on the surface, before finally agreeing.

Afterwards, the acolytes made plans for a concrete time to meet, before leaving hurriedly to make preparations.

For this bunch of acolytes, who wholeheartedly wanted to retire and live like princes, Leylin did not put much stock in their actual battle prowess.

“However, when all is said and done, they are still acolytes. Their basic spells, once cast, should still be something.” Leylin consoled himself.

At this moment, Murphy who just bade the others farewell walked beside Leylin with a frown on his expression, “Young man, when we reach the withering woods you have to protect me.”

“Sire! You are Level 3! A Level 3 Acolyte! While I am but a Level 2 Acolyte!” Leylin eyes widened.

“Sigh...I’m already too old for this. I have forgotten much of my spell repertoire. You understand, forming the spell model is meticulous work, a small miss-step and the explosion will not even leave behind corpse!” Murphy had a helpless expression.

“You, how long has it been since you last cast a spell?” Leylin suddenly had a bad premonition.

“It seems almost 30 to 40 years! As you know, I have always regarded myself as a scholar!” Murphy said very innocently.

“Fuck!” Leylin felt rather regretful suddenly.

Two days later. In the morning, Extreme Night City’s gates opened. Through those gates came a squadron of soldiers escorting a party in the middle. The group left the city’s perimeter at a rapid pace.

“I never thought that Viscount Jackson would also set off with us!” Murphy seemed to be very happy. Having a Grand Knight around, left him greatly assured.

Riding beside him, Viscount Jackson wore black-coloured, steel armour

with a helmet that covered his entire face.

“How are your preparations?” Leylin found a suitable time and whispered into Murphy’s ears.

“I have concentrated these past 2 days, and can barely use two spell models,” Murphy replied softly.

“That’s good!” Their conversation before was of a joking nature. Leylin would never believe that this crafty old geezer did not have any life-preserving trump cards up his sleeves.

The Magus world is not a peaceful place. Without enough skills, Murphy would have long since died. So how could he have survived until now as a mere scholar?

“However, even the Black Iron Guards have been activated? There seem to be two small squadrons, about 20 men!”

“Of course, these are all elite troops of the city!” Murphy said. Actually, both he and Leylin knew that in the withering woods, those two squadrons served only one purpose. Cannon fodder!

Dark Night Woods wasn’t that far from the city. After travelling for about half an hour, the group managed to reach the wood’s outskirts.

“The danger level here is comparable to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, despite its smaller size. At least, if a normal human were to be more alert, they can enter and leave here as they please when gathering the herbs!”

Leylin was at the centre of the party. Seeing the two squadrons paving the way at the front, his mind wandered.

Along the way, Leylin felt the life force of the Dark Night Woods reducing. Although it was spring, the woods seemed to lack vitality.

Moreover, everyone felt that their bodies were getting heavier and there was a shadow that veiled over their hearts. It felt extremely repressing.

Leylin looked around. The roots of the tree showed signs of withering. Some of the fresh sprouts have even turned pale yellow.

“The withering area has not extended to this point, but this is just a

hypothesis!" Leylin gasped.

"It is indeed different here now! My family used to be hunters. In past years, there used to be animals prancing about in this area. There were many wild vegetables and fresh herbs...."

Leylin overheard the words a few soldiers whispered among themselves.

"A.I. Chip! Any change in the air around here?"

[Scanning. Comparing with the database! Conclusion: Oxygen density/levels decreased by 3.7%, Nitrogen density increased. An unknown noble gas has appeared. It currently accounts for 1.2% but its density continues to rise!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"Could this inert noble gas be the perpetrator of this withering woods event?" Leylin stroked his chin, allowing the A.I. Chip to continue.

"Be careful! We have entered the withering domain!" Viscount Jackson roared at the forefront of the group.

Leylin patted his leather armour. Beneath it was the grey robes of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acting as a second layer of defense. He had even purposely removed the academy's insignia earlier.

What the accompanying acolytes lacked were the ephemeral defensive constructs that the Magi layered around themselves as they went into battle. Victory often revolved solely on whether the spells cast managed to strike an opponent.

"Instantaneous spell casting, Potioneering Spells, Magic Artifacts were all great enhancers of an acolyte's battle strength!"

Leylin reached into his robes and took out a potion from a leather bag tied around the waist.

In Brey Canyon, he had replenished his ingredients and had made many explosive potions as his ammunition for this expedition.

As the group advanced, the environment began to change.

More and more dried withered plants and trees filled the woods. They let off an aura of death and decay.

Leylin reached out and grabbed a twig in passing. His eyes flashed, "It has already lost all its water content, and even...."

Exerting a little more force in his palm, the twig immediately turned into white dust, trickled through the gaps in his fingers and floated down towards the ground.

"Even the internal structure has been completely destroyed!" Leylin's heart felt rather heavy. A power like this already exceeded his expectations.

"Where are we supposed to go?" Viscount Jackson asked Murphy who was beside him.

"The heart of the woods! Only by reaching the center of this withering region, can my spell exert enough effect!" Murphy had on an extremely solemn expression. He withdrew a spectacle-like item and hung it on his nose.

A wide withered tree lay on the ground. It had an extremely spongy feel when stepped on.

[Warning! Warning! Dangerous organism ahead!] The A.I. Chip's alarm went off suddenly and Leylin tried to think of an excuse to use so he could warn the others.

Hu! Suddenly brown-coloured branches and twigs flew up. A black figure came charging towards them.

This figure was extremely quick. It opened its jaw littered with snow white fangs. A red-coloured tongue flicked out.

Su Su! The tongue coiled around one of the guards on duty at the front and retracted its tongue. Pa! The guard's spear fell.

"Be careful!" At this moment, Viscount Jackson gave a warning.

"Argh!" The miserable cries sounded. The guard, trapped in the tongue's coils had already disappeared into a black hole. He was snapped into two

halves. Fresh red blood and guts spilled onto the ground.

“Damn it!” Viscount Jackson shouted angrily and brandished the wide sword that hung from his waist. He immediately went and engaged the black figure.

“Sluggish Spell!” The red-haired shop owner waved his hands. A yellow-green light was shot. It turned into a circular ring that closed on the black figure. The other acolytes began reacting and started their own incantations.

Sssii! With the hissing of the creature, the black figure’s speed finally slowed down revealing its appearance to everyone.

Its body was clay-yellow in colour. It had four legs, a tongue that was like a snake’s and a small horn on its forehead.

“Wasn’t it reported that this creature died already? Why is there still one?” Leylin was suspicious, but he still activated the A.I. Chip.

[Beep! Unknown organism. Strength: 5.5, Agility: 4 (6-7), Vitality: 5, Spiritual Force: 3. Similarity to Blue Lizard 67.4% and to Mance Earth Snake 45.8%]

“It’s a rather strong creature. Apart from its low Spiritual Force, it doesn’t have any obvious flaws. Their numbers are also unknown; no wonder Jackson was not able to deal with them alone!”

However, as the Sluggish Spell took effect, this strange lizard’s speed obviously took a hit. After a brief exchange of blows, the Viscount shouted, “Death Arc of Light!”

From within his blade, a resplendent circle of light expanded into the shape of a blade. It streaked past the lizard’s neck.

“A Knight-class killing technique! It has the same properties as my Cross Slash. However, Jackson uses it with ease. He has not even used any Knight secret technique.”

Bang! The two passed each other. The huge lizard charged forward another few steps before suddenly crashing to the ground.

Sssii! Clay yellow scales landed on the floor one by one. Around the lizard's neck area was a huge cut. Dark red blood spilled on the ground.

"All of you look!" An acolyte shouted suddenly.

With the death of the lizard, its body continued to cave inwards, with the scales continuously falling off and littering the ground. The blood quickly evaporated too. Within a few short minutes, there was only a white skeleton and some yellow scales left on the ground.

Chapter 65: Deep Underground

“There’s no need to look anymore. The same thing happened when I killed these creatures before.”

Viscount Jackson took out a white handkerchief and wiped his blade clean, before sheathing it into the scabbard.

“There’s actually a self-disintegration phenomenon when it dies!”

Leylin was somewhat surprised. This did not correspond to the laws of nature.

Looking at the skeleton that was still emitting white smoke, Leylin picked one of the bones up.

The dried white bone was littered with cracks. It felt like any slight press would cause it to crumble. Leylin exerted a little more force, and with a hissing sound, the dried bone turned into fine powder.

“En, something’s off!” Leylin’s eyes flashed. He discovered some fine threads of veins within the white bone powder.

[Target still exuding vital energy. Identified to be a high-level pathogen. The host is recommended to keep a distance!] At this moment, the A.I. Chip’s scan appeared in Leylin’s vision.

Leylin hurriedly flung off the powdery substance and began radiating internal energy particles from within his hands to cleanse them.

“What’s wrong?” Murphy too discovered that something was amiss.

“Be careful of those bones, there’s something inside it!” Leylin’s brows furrowed and he hurriedly distanced himself from it.

Sssii! At that moment, more red blood veins appeared on the desiccated lizard’s skeleton. The bone began to exhibit innumerable puncture holes. It seemed like the veins resided within the bones previously.

Countless more blood red veins took shape, intertwining like the branches of a tree and started transforming into a small-sized creature.

It was rather similar to the creature before, but now its body was blood

red. From time to time, red veins popped out. The creature did not have eyes or a mouth. Its four legs appeared extremely sturdy, however.

Xiu! The creature's attack was extremely fast. Before Viscount Jackson and the other acolytes could react, it left its original position. Only a red, blurry line could be seen.

"Give chase! This creature definitely has something to do with the withering woods!" A person covered fully in grey robes whispered something to Viscount Jackson, who immediately gave the order.

"That grey-robed person, has always been following Viscount Jackson ever since we left Extreme Night City. He must be a trusted aide. He also has great detection abilities."

Leylin eyes narrowed as he used the A.I. Chip to scan. "This appearance and figure, there is also the energy waves of a Level 2 Acolyte? Interesting!"

"Hurry! Keep up!"

Upon hearing Viscount Jackson's orders, the Black Iron Guards immediately followed suit, overtaking Viscount Jackson and keeping him in their midst. The grey-robed person followed closely behind.

The remaining acolytes looked at each other. Murphy, a little helplessly, said, "Let's follow them!"

Leylin purposely suppressed his speed and kept to Murphy's speed, "That thing earlier, do you have any guesses as to what it was?"

"It seems to be some kind of parasite! According to its strength, the mother-parent has, at least, the strength of a Level 3 Acolyte....Or even that of an official Magus!" Murphy smiled bitterly.

Leylin and his small group were of no threat to an official Magus. Any Rank 1 spell could easily obliterate their entire party.

"That shouldn't be!" Leylin shook his head. According to the A.I. Chip's calculations, that parasite's strength was not bad. The mother-parent's body should at most have the strength of a Level 3 Acolyte, theoretically

speaking. Otherwise, Leylin would have been the first to run away.

“It is only....just an investigative mission, I even picked it myself. That it can actually involve an organism with the strength of a Level 3 Acolyte, how bad can my luck be....” Leylin did not know what to think of himself anymore.

He was happy that he did not come here on his own before. Otherwise, unlike the main characters in the novels of his previous world, he was incapable of those fictional bursts of power in times of adversity. And the only outcome would be death.

“Be careful, we are venturing deeper. I can already feel the dense negative energy aura in the air!”

An acolyte howled.

Leylin had a higher perception towards negative energy. After all, his main affinities were Shadow and Dark Element particles. Just like Plant affinity and Light affinity emphasized on positive energy research, Leylin’s affinities made him spend more time exposed to negative energy compared to the others.

“It’s almost like the surroundings of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. No wonder I feel like a fish back in the water.”

Leylin pulled up his sleeves and covered the smile that pulled at the corners of his lips.

Clang! Sounded their armour as the group halted.

“It disappeared! I saw that red creature pausing at this spot for a moment, then it suddenly disappeared!” Jackson brandished his long sword, “Be on guard!”

The Black Iron Guards immediately formed a circle protecting Jackson and the acolytes within to prevent any sneak attacks.

“This should be the heart of the withering woods!” Murphy rubbed his nose.

“The scouting method I have prepared can now be used!” Murphy took a

black coloured potion from his robes and poured the contents on the ground after opening the plug.

Plop plop!

After the black coloured potion was poured on the forest floor, it actually turned into tiny ants scampering in all directions.

After the potion was used up, Leylin estimated that there were close to ten thousand ants that appeared.

“A scout like this can be considered to have omnidirectional coverage. It will be extremely difficult for that creature to escape!” Leylin thought.

As expected, after roughly a dozen minutes, a black coloured ant appeared at Murphy’s feet, crawled on his robes all the way to his ears, and appeared as if it whispered something.

“It’s been found! Follow me!” Murphy followed the ant and led the group to a withered oak tree.

“Move this oak tree away!” Murphy pointed at the large tree, “According to my probing, there seems to be a secret tunnel underneath it.”

“Squad 1! Go!” Jackson waved his hands.

Several Black Iron Guards went forward and stabbed their pikes at the oak tree.

The withered oak tree did not seem capable of withstanding the assault. After being pierced multiple times by the pikes, many pieces and chips of bark filled the air as if it were snowing. The ten guards hurriedly moved the completely withered oak tree away revealing a dark sinister tunnel.

“Here it is!” Murphy’s eyes flashed, and he chanted an incantation.

The widely spread black ants returned from all directions and entered the hole.

Suddenly, Murphy’s face turned pale, and his body fell backwards, almost fainting.

“What happened?” Leylin appeared behind Murphy and supported his

waist.

“There seems to be an extremely dangerous creature inside. It destroyed all of my precious babies!” Murphy’s expression appeared very unsightly.

“What should we do?” An acolyte asked, apparently wanting to leave.

“Prepare a fire!” Jackson waves his hands, “We’ll have a look down there!”

“Yes!” The guards quickly carried out their lord’s orders. Leylin and the other acolytes looked at each other. Having no other choice, they could only follow.

The hole was rather small. A grown man needed to crouch before they could enter. However, the tunnel became more spacious the deeper it went, until a number of guards could walk abreast, even raising the fire torches high did not touch the cave’s ceiling.

“This is going to be troublesome! From the height of this cave, that ‘parent’s’ body will definitely not be small.” Leylin felt the leather sack hanging from his waist. If not for the multiple trump cards he prepared, he might have already sneaked away and left the group by now.

After all, his life was more precious than the wrath of a city’s lord.

“Lord Viscount! There’s a fork ahead!” A squad leader reported to Jackson.

“Let me have a look!” Jackson stepped forward.

Leylin followed behind. As expected, there seemed to be two perfectly similar tunnels ahead. Looking at the darkness of their unfathomable depths, one could not see the tunnel’s end. It felt like walking into the huge mouth of a beast.

“The negative energy in here is becoming too dense. Some of our scouting methods cannot be used here!” The city lord’s aide, the grey-robed person spoke.

“Call two men to reconnoiter each path ahead!” Jackson’s brows furrowed as he gave the order.

“It would be better to let me do it!” Leylin walked forward suddenly.

Since he knew that the ‘parent’ was extremely powerful, he did not want his side to lose too much battle strength.

“Since Mister Leylin has decided to step forward, then it’s for the best!” Viscount Jackson smiled.

Leylin walked forward several steps and took out a transparent crystal from his robes.

“Gurisitong - Jiaonateyer!” Leylin chanted. A black vertical pupil suddenly appeared within the depths of the crystal.

The vertical pupil was the same size as a human’s, but it did not have the white of a human eye. Looking at this pure black pupil made one feel as if it could tear their souls from their bodies.

“This is... The Negative Energy Eye!”

“Only acolytes who specialise in negative energy are able to use it!”

The acolytes behind began to whisper and their gazes contained more hostility and fear than before.

The Rank O spells of Magicians who specialises in negative energy are generally more destructive and their personalities were more bloodthirsty and savage than most other Magi. This normally meant being a Dark Magi.

The regular magicians’ hostile looks were understandable.

Leylin did not have any inclinations of explaining himself to the people behind him whatsoever. His fingers exerted force and pinched the crystal to pieces.

The black pupil split into two. One floated into each tunnel.

Following the vertical pupils mentally, Leylin’s closed his eyes. Viscount Jackson became rather nervous as he stared at Leylin. The group grew quiet, only the constant soft snapping noise of torches burning could be heard.

A few minutes later, Leylin opened his eyes, “On the tunnel to the left are a few mutated lizards. At its end is a large granite rock.”

“As for the one on the right, I only know that it leads unknown distance downwards. My spell got smashed after I tried probing further.”

“Since it’s that way, let’s all go down together.” Jackson pointed to the tunnel on the right.

The right side of the cave got damper and more humid. Leylin touched the mud walls and found a few moss-like plants strewn all over it dripping wet, “It’s moist!”

Leylin’s heart lurched, but his expression remained impassive. He took out a white handkerchief from his robes and wiped his hands clean.

“I’m afraid we’re nearing the nest of those strange creatures.”

Chapter 66: Rune Shackles

“Light! There’s a light ahead!”

A guard walking in the vanguard shouted.

Leylin took a look. Indeed, the far end of the tunnel was radiating light.

“Enter!” Jackson gripped his large sword with both hands and was the first to rush in.

The rest followed suit.

Light! Eye-piercing light radiated downwards from above!

Leylin’s eyes were stinging – tears flowed down uncontrollably. He immediately used his hand to cover his eyes.

“Argh!” “Monster!” “Be careful!”

Various shouts resounded, and weapons were brandished.

[Alert! Imminent attack ahead! Optimal response: step back and crouch!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned and projected a faint blue screen.

On the screen, a talon the size of a palm was clawing towards Leylin.

Leylin hurriedly retreated a step and crouched to dodge the attack.

Amidst the wails all around, Jackson’s faint howling could be heard.

After the A.I. Chip’s scan, Leylin could see that many lizard-like creatures were making use of their familiarity with the geography to attempt a massacre of Jackson and the squad of guards around him.

The sneak attack was so quick that when Jackson and the rest finally reacted, the whole squad already suffered heavy casualties.

As Leylin swept his gaze across the scene before him and his eyes finally adjusted to the bright light. He realised that the floor was already littered with corpses. Many of them had traces of having been chewed on by these strange creatures.

At that moment, only the 2 Knight level squad leaders and the grey robed figure, who always followed behind Jackson, were all that remained

of the group with Jackson.

As for the acolytes, one had fallen to the ground and another had a large wound on his abdomen that was oozing blood.

At the apex of the cave, white-coloured jellyfish-like creatures were floating. The flash from earlier had radiated from their bodies.

“The surge of light radiated from these jellyfish could actually increase instantaneously and produce an effect similar to a flashbang grenade. The coordination demonstrated by these strange creatures that caused several deaths and injuries definitely hinted at some intelligence controlling them from behind the scenes!”

After light burst from the jellyfish, they seemed to have become a little dispirited as they floated around in the air. Although there was still some light emanating from their bodies, it was not piercing to the eyes. It seemed like the flash from earlier was a one time attack.

“This is a Flash Jellyfish, a kind of subterranean creature. Their earlier attack can only be used once. They need a day of rest before emitting such an intense burst of light again!”

Murphy appeared, clutching a book to his chest.

“What we need to deal with are not these parasitic organisms, but that fellow in the middle!” Leylin pointed to the centre of the cave, and smiled bitterly.

Leylin and the rest entered a large underground cave earlier, where the ceiling was littered with stalactites and Flash Jellyfish, which allowed them a panoramic view of the interior.

At this moment, in the cave, there were many mutated, yet familiar creatures. There were lizards, brown bears, and elks, all numbering over a dozen. At the centre most of them all, there was an enormous yellow snake that seemed to be the king, as it was guarded by the other creatures.

“It’s Mankestre - Great Withering Snake Mankestre!” Murphy’s book fell from his hands to the floor, letting off a bang.

“A.I. Chip, scan!” Leylin instructed.

[Great Withering Snake - Mankestre (Half-adult body) Strength: 11.9, Agility: 6.5, Vitality: 14, Spiritual Force: 8]

[Abilities: 1 - Parasitic. A Mankestre is able to develop an extremely strong parasite in its body, and spread it to other organisms, making them its underlings.]

[2 - Wither. In any areas where a Mankestre has passed by, the plants will die, and become a type of nutrient for the Mankestre. An adult Mankestre possesses the strength of an official Magus, and can transform an entire forest into withering ashes.]

[Source of information: <Creatures Illustrated Handbook>, <Nigel’s Travels>]

The A.I. Chip delivered the information immediately in front of Leylin.

“Half-adult body? It doesn’t seem to be at its adult stage!” Leylin first heaved a breath of relief, before shouting out loud, “Murphy, don’t be fooled by its appearance. This is but a non-adult Mankestre. We still have a chance!”

“Indeed!” Murphy scrutinised the brown yellow colour of the huge snake and finally recovered from his fright, “An adult Mankestre is at least 100 metres long, and this snake is obviously not of that length yet. A number of parasites that it produces is also not right!”

“This huge snake is the cause of the withering woods?” Jackson asked at the side while staring at the huge snake as his Adam’s apple moved.

“That’s right! A Mankestre uses the juice of plants as their food. They are rather crafty and lazy, and also hate to move about. Basically, it uses the parasites to gather food for itself!”

Murphy, who had bountiful experience and wisdom, was extremely aware of the habits of the huge Mankestre Snake.

“So then, if we kill it, the herb production in Dark Night Woods can recover again?” Jackson used his long sword and pointed at the huge

yellow snake that was protected by its parasitic mutated creatures.

“In theory, it should be the case as long as you kill it or drive it away. Although its death cannot revive the withering woods, it can still allow the prey and woods to slowly recover back to what it once was!”

Murphy smiled wryly.

Hiss! The snake coiled in the centre of the cave hissed, and let off a low, snake-like speech.

It was a kind of sound made by the friction of rubbing two pieces rotten leather together, which was extremely unpleasant to the ears.

The creatures surrounding Leylin and the rest seemed to have received orders, and howled as they charged forward!

Leylin casually took a look, “There are too many creatures, and the parent body is not yet dealt with, I must conserve my magic power!”

“A.I. Chip! Simulate the most optimal method of attack!”

Leylin pulled out his cross blade.

[Beep! Inputting situation data, initiating build with Host’s stats!]

[Calculating battle simulation for the most optimal method!] The A.I. Chip continuously displayed the attack style of creatures surrounding home.

Leylin’s feet moved as he dodged a brown bear’s attack. The cross blade in his right hand drew a strange trajectory, and deflected the paw of the bear, and directly pierced through its skull.

Bang! The huge brown corpse of the bear fell to the ground, and even the Mankestre Snake had taken notice, looking at Leylin.

Leylin’s scalp tingled, as he hurriedly kept his distance.

“Nicely done!” Jackson shouted in admiration. His body seemed to turn into a gust of wind, and continuously ravaged the mob of creatures, leaving a trail of blood behind him.

“It seems that Jackson has ignited the secret Knight technique! His

technique should be enhancing his agility ”

The few acolytes also casted their Rank 0 spells that they had prepared and assisted in killing these creatures.

Leylin only took a look and did not bother about them anymore.

Sssii! The corpse of the brown bear that Leylin had killed rapidly decomposed. From the bones, many veins appeared, which turned into the creature that Leylin and the rest had been chasing earlier. The creature then climbed into the Mankestre's mouth.

The Mankestre Snake opened its mouth and revealed rows of razor sharp teeth. Its tongue coiled, as it swallowed the strange red veined creature into its belly.

“Retrieving its parasite huh?” Leylin was rather shocked.

After swallowing the parasite, the Mankestre Snake finally uncoiled and looked at Leylin and the group, who were unrestrainedly slaughtering the creatures. Its crimson eyes showed signs of rage.

Bang! The huge body of the snake shot out, and the entire cave trembled violently.

The huge Mankestre Snake's body moved at an alarming speed, charging towards Jackson.

“6.5”

“It's too quick! With an agility of 6.5, I can only see its afterimage ”
Leylin rapidly retreated, and at the same time, he used the cross blade to block his chest.

A surge of immense force came rushing over, and the cross blade that Leylin held onto flew in the air, completely broken .

“Such a strong force, and it's only a casual swipe!” Leylin's pupils constricted.

The Mankestre Snake opened its jaws wide, and its razor sharp teeth snapped at Jackson, bringing about a fish-like smell. If Jackson were to be caught, he would definitely die without a corpse left.

“Sir!” The remaining two Knights and the grey robed person shouted.

“Hah! Good try!” At the brink of death, Jackson finally released all of his internal energy, and the sword pierced at the crown of the snake with a speed that was hard to track by eye.

The sword, however, only left a white spot on the scales of the snake. As for Jackson, he used the force to rebound, and twisted his waist, evading the snap of the snake’s jaw.

“Protect our Lord!” The two Knights rushed forward. The Mankestre Snake let out a ferocious roar, and directly gobbled the two Knights into its belly.

“Secondary Fireball!”

“Acidic Aqua Shot”

At this moment, the other acolytes also cast their spells, striking the body of the huge snake.

Bang! A black arrow with a yellow flame exploded from the body of the huge snake, revealing two scorched holes/wounds/gashes.

The huge snake let off a roar, which carried a tinge of agony. Its scales shook, and it sent its tail flying towards the few acolytes.

“The vitality of the snake is too high, any normal Rank 0 spells would not be able to affect its movement at all!”

The huge snake swatted its tail, and a few acolytes who were unable to dodge in time were turned into meat pancakes, and blood oozed from beneath the snake’s body.

“No! Decker! Lancer!” Murphy cried hoarsely in anguish.

“There’s no choice, we have to retreat first!” The few remaining people huddled together, when the grey robed figure behind Jackson spoke in a deep growl.

“No! This damned worm dared to kill Decker and the rest! I will definitely not let it go!” Murphy’s eyes were rather bloodshot.

“I have a spell that can temporarily restrict its movements, the rest will be up to you guys.”

Murphy stepped forward, placed the monocle that he always carried in his hand, and tossed it towards the huge snake.

Bang! The glass shattered on the huge snake, and many dark red runes suddenly surfaced.

The dark red runes multiplied, and turned into the shape of a long chain, binding the snake within it.

“What a powerful restraining spell!” Leylin’s eyes flashed, “It will not be able to move for at least half a minute, so use whatever methods you guys have in that time.”

Chapter 67: Defence Potion

The fine rune shackles were the size of a strand of hair compared to the huge Mankestre snake. However, under the restraint of the shackles, the huge snake was helplessly locked to the ground, not even able to move.

“Hurry, charge!” Jackson howled, and the huge sword radiated light.

On the other side, the grey-robed person too lifted his cloak, and revealed a Half-Beast Man appearance as he hurriedly chanted an incantation.

Roar! The remaining creatures felt the danger that their parent was in, and rushed forward, with no thoughts for their own safety, towards Leylin and the rest.

“Go to hell!” Leylin pulled out a few fire red coloured explosive potions and decimated the remaining creatures into ashes.

“To the Mankestre snake, the eyes are their Achilles heel, and is even more vulnerable than the heart.

Leylin howled, at the same time chanting.

Along with the chanting of the mysterious and ancient Byron language resounding in the cave, a hoard of congealed and thick black oily bodies appeared beside Leylin, completely surrounding him.

These black, oily figures circled around Leylin, giving off bubbles from time to time, and letting off a sound that was akin to decomposing material. While he continued to chant, the black oiled figures continuously changed shape, finally turning into a black lion head-like apparition.

“Go!” Leylin pointed.

The black lion head roared, and charged towards the crown of the huge snake which was being restrained.

Pu! The lion head immediately bit on both of the Mankestre snake’s eyes.

Sssii! The huge snake writhed continuously, letting off an agonised screech. The rune shackles on its body were also emitting off red smoke.

“Hurry!” I cannot keep this up much longer!” Murphy completely diverged from his scholarly image and howled without a care.

The black lion head continuously chewed on the head of the huge snake, and finally dissolved, turning into a puddle of greasy black oil, that covering the head of the huge snake, and eventually covered both of its eyes.

“It is now!” Leylin eyes flashed and withdrew a test tube. The contents radiated a blood red light, which excreted feelings of danger.

This was an explosive potion, but was much larger in comparison had a larger blast radius was larger in circumference as in compared to the previous potions.

The muscles of Leylin’s right arm bulged as he tossed the potion directly into the black oil.

Bang! A tremendous flame rose, completely engulfing the huge Mankestre snake, and burning it savagely.

The huge snake continuously tossed its head, which looked like a huge burning torch from, side to side.

The rune shackles around it also let off creaking noises which meant that it could not endure for much longer.

“The decomposing oil water that comes from the subterranean area, together with the A.I. Chip’s modified explosive potion gives off a combined attack of at least 9 degrees!”

Blue light in continuously flashed from within Leylin’s eyes, as he recorded the figures from the explosion.

“Pant! Pant! The earlier attack has already broken through most of the huge Mankestre snake’s defence! Now is the time to kill it!”

Leylin panted violently, and his face was extremely pale. It was like he had completely depleted his Spiritual Force and Magic Power, and he

staggered several steps behind.

From an area of his sleeve which was concealed from others, another of the modified explosive potions, which was used earlier, appeared in his hands.

Leylin would never place his hopes completely on others, especially at crucial times like this.

At this moment, the Half-Beast Man had finished chanting his spell.

“The strength of my forebearer’s totem, transform now into frigid ice, and grant me the might to slay the Mankestre snake!”

The Half-Beast Man finished his spell, and touched lightly on Jackson’s sword.

Sssii!

On the blade of Jackson’s huge sword, a layer of frost began to envelop it, , and the frost grew more and more, before finally enlarging the of the blade to double of its original size, and turning it into a frost greatsword!

What the Half-Beast Man had cast was actually a kind of rarely seen spell which could enhance weapons!

“According to the scan of the A.I. Chip, at this moment, the greatsword in Jackson’s hands already has the strength of a basic level Magic Artifact!”

Leylin eyes flashed, “It is a rather decent enchanting technique!”

Jackson had obviously teamed up with the Half-Beast Man many times before. Earlier, he had been conserving his energy, and once the greatsword had completed the layer of frost, Jackson howled and raised it above him, charging and chopping towards the neck of the Mankestre snake.

The sword, which seemed like a giant crystallised ice sculpture, directly chopped at a blackened patch of the huge snake with Jackson’s strength of a Grand Knight.

Pu-chi!

Red hot blood flowed down continuously from a deep gash on the neck of the Mankestre snake, which seemed to be almost half a metre deep. One could even see the whites of the bones. The huge snake roared, and headbutted with all its strength.

Bang! Viscount Jackson was immediately knocked away, and even the breastplate he was wearing was dented inwards.

The frost greatsword landed upright by his side, burying itself halfway into the ground.

Ping Ping Ping! The layer of ice continuously cracked, and finally even the sword, which was made of steel, shattered into countless fragments that landed on the floor.

“It seems like this spell isn’t completely flawless either!” Leylin was still in the mood to observe leisurely.

However, at this moment, Murphy’s complexion turned red, “I can’t control it any longer!”

Under the continuous struggles of the Mankestre snake, the rune shackles around it finally collapsed with a rattling sound. As for the price of being able to free itself, the snake had already suffered a dozen wounds which penetrated through its scales.

As for the heavily injured Mankestre snake, its bloodshot eyes turned even more crimson. With lightning speed, it swiped and coiled its tail. Before Leylin could react, he realised that there was one less person beside him. The Half-Beast Man which originally stood there was now wrapped up in the snake’s tail.

“No! Save me!” The tail continuously constricted, and the huge snake’s figure almost covered the entirety of the Half-Beast Man.

At this moment, Jackson, who was not sure if he was still alive or dead, lay on the side, and could not answer his subordinate cries at all.

Ga-cha! With a creaking noise, the ear-piercing sounds of bones shattering resounded in the air. The Half-Beast Man’s distressed cries climbed higher in pitch, until finally, it turned into dead silence.

Leylin watched the huge, moribund snake attentively, as he drew a few potions of various colours.

Bang!

A huge black figure attacked, and hit a yellow test tube that had left Leylin's hands. In the surrounding area, a layer of yellow light appeared, and engulfed Leylin's entire body.

The immense might crashed into Leylin and he was sent flying, crashing into a nearby granite rock. Mud flew above his head as he landed, and there was even a huge impression left on the rock behind his back.

At the same time as Leylin was sent back flying, a layer of intense red flames extended from the snake's tail, and multiple colours of light also blossomed on the snake's body, finally resulting in the cries of the Mankestre snake.

The yellow light shattered into many pieces, before finally dissipating into the air.

Leylin's body was completely unscathed, and seeing the many spots of dazzling yellow light, he grimaced.

"The weakness of acolytes is that they always have no defensive measures!"

The defensive spell models for Rank O spells were extremely uncommon, as they were not very practical. When an acolyte is being attacked, rarely would they have time to chant those spells.

As a result, in battles between acolytes, whoever was struck first by a spell would end up defeated or killed.

This scenario would last until one reached the stage of an official Magus.

Apart from this, there was another method, which was to borrow strength from special items. For example, defensive or strange items which could instantly activate a defence spell.

However, such high leveled defensive items were even difficult to obtain

for official Magus, so they rarely appeared in the hands of an acolyte.

Leylin and the other acolytes, together with the Half-Beast Man, all had no defensive items. At most, they only wore leather armour, which had absolutely no resistance against spells.

Moreover, a simple roll of the Mankestre snake would have already been able to grind them into a meat paste.

“According to the records of the academy, there are still a number of acolytes who die at the hands of Knights and Grand Knights. However, there has never been any instance of an official Magus dying at the hands of ordinary humans!”

As for this yellow potion, it was Leylin’s latest experimental result - Trevor’s Revolving Shield Potion!

A potion like this has already separated itself from the category of elementary potions. It was a kind of beginner’s potion, and even amongst the beginner potion category it was extremely difficult to brew.

As for the effect, it would produce a one-time defensive layer of light, which would defend against any spell or physical attack of ten degrees or less!

With Leylin’s amassed wealth from selling potions, together with the A.I. Chip continuous simulation, he had finally managed to make only two bottles of it.

The amount he spent for these had already exceeded over 1000 Magic Crystals!

“These potions are not easily affordable by others, and all official Magi attacks have an attack strength of over 10 degrees, so this Trevor’s Revolving Shield Potion is best used only at the level of battles between acolytes. However, every bottle costs at least 500 Magic Crystals. Even direct heirs to large families would not be able to afford it!”

However, for Leylin who had the help from A.I. Chip, which could elevate his success rate, combined with his original class/job(syn) as a Potions Master, he could brew the Trevor’s Revolving Shield Potion,

suppressing the cost to around 200 to 300 Magic Crystals. Although it still remained steep in price, as it was a trump card, it was acceptable.

“Leylin!” Murphy’s eyes widened, “You...Are you alright?”

“En! I’ve wasted an expensive defensive potion that I’ve acquired!”
Leylin’s face darkened, and seemed to be extremely saddened by the loss.

“This damned beast, I’m going to kill it!”

On the other side of the battlefield, the huge Mankestre snake lay half dead on the floor, seemingly spent, and having wounds strewn across its body.

First, it was hit with Leylin’s hybrid attack, before almost having its head chopped off by Grand Knight Jackson. Afterwards, it escaped from Murphy’s rune shackles through brute force, before it was finally struck again by Leylin’s potions.

The snake head, which was always held high with pride, now lay helpless on the floor. Its tongue hissed, and blood continuously flowed out from its neck area.

“After having suffered from such a devastating injury, no matter how tenacious the life force of snake type creatures are, they will absolutely still perish!”

Murphy gritted his teeth, and shot a green coloured pyramid shaft, which directly lodged itself into the eyes of the huge snake.

Pu! The snake’s eyes were finally pierced through, and a layer of creamy red and yellow liquid splashed out, which was sparkling yet translucent.

Chapter 68: Returning to Extreme Night City

“The eyes are where the life essence of the Mankestre snake is, and it looks like this huge snake is about to die!”

Murphy looked at the huge snake, which was in its last moments, and said rather bleakly.

“Be optimistic my old friend!” Towards Murphy’s bleakness, Leylin discovered that he actually could not utter any words of comfort.

After all, the casualties, this time, were too much. From a group of roughly 30 people, the Black Iron Guards were completely wiped out, and Murphy was the only acolyte that survived.

Moreover, the city lord and the Grand Knight, Viscount Jackson, was severely injured at this moment, and his life was in peril.

And the source of them all was this huge Mankestre snake!

“City lord? Right, Leylin! Hurry and look at Jackson!” Murphy slapped his forehead.

“You only thought of him now?” Leylin was rather speechless, and walked around the huge snake corpse, coming to the other side.

Viscount Jackson was lying on his back on the ground and his chest was sunken in a cavity. On the corners of his lips were traces of blood, and he was in an unconscious state.

Leylin hurriedly took a look, “3 broken ribs and the arm and leg bones are all also broken. As for the rest they are fine. With the Vitality of a Grand Knight, he should be conscious in a few hours.

“That’s good! This is the only good news I’ve heard all day today!”

Murphy walked towards that huge, lifeless snake, and said, “This seems to be a Mankestre snake which has not yet grown to its adult stage. If it was an adult withering huge snake, it could be very likely that the water content in our bodies would have been sucked dry the very moment we

entered the cave!”

The huge Mankestre snake’s head fell onto the floor, and a pair of eye-shaped pearls were pierced by the pyramid shaft, and dazzling fluid flowed out from within.

“Even so, the materials on this huge snake, would also be worth thousands of Magic Crystals!”

Murphy caressed the yellow-brown scales of the huge snake as he muttered to himself.

Suddenly, the other eye of the Mankestre snake opened! Its gaze, filled with hatred, immediately landed on Murphy. It opened its jaws, and the razor-sharp teeth was about to snap Murphy into two.

This huge snake was not completely dead!

Earlier it had feigned its death, and right now, it finally revealed its razor-sharp teeth and was about to kill this repulsive human.

Against such an attack, Murphy was completely not protected and he stood there stunned, not moving at all.

“Be careful!”

Right when the snow-white teeth was about to land on Murphy, a silver chain suddenly flew out and wrapped itself on Murphy’s waist, pulling him out of danger’s way.

A black arrow directly pierced the other eye of the snake, and the Mankestre snake continuously writhed and finally ceased moving.

Huff! Huff! Huff!

Murphy panted violently, “Ley... Leylin, thank you! I owe you my life!”

“No problem! You gave your support to me back then too, didn’t you?” Leylin smiled as his gaze fixed on the huge snake, up until when the A.I. Chip’s voice sounded, [Target has completely lost all signs of life] did he heave a sigh of relief.

Under the detection of the A.I. Chip, although there were no more

energy movements from the huge snake earlier, there was still a thermal response.

Of course, many kinds of creatures must be dead for a while before all thermal signs completely vanish.

However, because of that, Leylin was even more vigilant. Besides, intentionally or accidentally, he led Murphy forward and finally verified whether the large snake was truly dead.

“What a pity! If this Mankestre snake were to die before, its other eye would have absolutely been valued over 1000 Magic Crystals, but right now, the value of the whole corpse is greatly reduced.”

Leylin was somewhat helpless as he looked to Murphy, who was at his side.

“About the attack earlier— you actually did not dodge it, which makes me rather surprised!”

An unexpected flush reddened Murphy’s cheeks, “After using the rune shackles, my Spiritual Force and Magic Power are greatly weakened. In this period, I am just another old geezer on the street....”

With regards to Leylin, who saved him earlier, right now it could be said that Murphy trusted him greatly and actually even shared such a secret with him.

“Alright! Let’s hurry and harvest the materials of this Mankestre snake, and then return to Extreme Night City!”

Leylin sized up the chaotic scene. Leylin and the three of them had absolutely no way to move those corpses on the ground, so they could only return back to Extreme Night City and ask people to retrieve these corpses.

With the death of the huge Mankestre snake, this area should no longer pose a threat in future.

“Haha... This time Leylin, your contributions have been the most, so you should be allowed to harvest the best material!” Murphy smiled.

Concerning this matter, Leylin did not have any notions of killing Murphy and claiming all the loot for himself.

Murphy did help him earlier, and on the other hand, right now Murphy and him were the only two acolytes left, so he would definitely monopolise a large portion of the resources, thus he did not have to take a risk and kill people.

From the whole Mankestre snake, the most valuable ingredient would be its eyes, after which the remaining materials would only add up to a total of 1000 to 2000 Magic Crystals, which was not enough to bewitch Leylin yet.

If right now there was some rare materials worth ten thousand Magic Crystals, who knew if Leylin would harbour some bad intentions.

“Decent scales, combined with the snake skin, should be able to produce many sets of soft armour.” Leylin went forward and unsheathed his cross blade, before dissecting the huge snake. Murphy too helped by his side.

After a moment of being busy, Leylin and Murphy had harvested some of the more valuable portions of the huge snake. As for the remaining items, they could only be transported with help from the city lord’s castle.

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Gu Lu Lu The axles of the carriage resounded continuously, and Viscount Jackson opened his eyes.

“I am...still alive?” What entered his vision was a sky filled with resplendent starlight, and he felt his body rising and falling in accordance with the movements of the horse carriage.

Viscount Jackson discovered that his chest was already bandaged, and a refreshing feeling dispersed the pain, which showed that the healing process was extremely professional.

“Who was it that saved me?” A doubt crossed Viscount Jackson’s mind, and he tried hard to untangle his thoughts.

“City Lord! You are finally awake!” A face with a white beard and white

eyebrows appeared in front of Viscount Jackson.

“How is it? Do you still retain your memories?” Murphy shook his finger in front of Viscount Jackson.

“Was it you who saved me? How are the others?” Viscount Jackson struggled to speak, and his voice sounded hoarse, like a ruined bellow.

“It wasn’t me, but Leylin who saved you!” Murphy pointed at Leylin who was driving, “We three are the only survivors of the whole group... After exiting the woods, it took me a while to obtain this spacious horse carriage....”

“They’re all dead?” Viscount Jackson flung his head to the side and an unexplainable sorrow welled from the bottom of his heart.

“Lord Viscount! It seems like you are alright now!” Leylin turned back, and tossed a green bottled potion, “This is a healing potion, I hope it will be of use to you!”

Murphy caught it, and fed it into the mouth of Viscount Jackson.

After taking the potion, Viscount Jackson only felt a hot wave surging through his four limbs, and he finally regained some energy from it.

“Towards Leylin’s generosity and grace of saving my life, I will definitely repay you when we return!”

“If possible, please give me all of the Hove Violet Leaves in the castle. That would be the greatest recompense!” Leylin raised his request without a tinge of restraint.

“Of course!” Jackson was stunned, before immediately agreeing.

With the advance of the horse carriage, the silhouette of Extreme Night City gradually appeared.

A few soldiers were still guarding the post, scrutinising the people that came and went.

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Jackson looked at the distant scene, and his eyes quivered, and finally

two streams of tears flowed....

The city lord's castle's reconnoiter group had perished completely. Even news of Viscount Jackson, as a Grand Knight, having been seriously injured had spread and immediately caused an uproar in Extreme Night City.

Even after two days, the news did not die down. Instead, it even spread throughout the area,

As the city lord of Extreme Night City, Viscount Jackson always used his status as a Grand Knight to suppress many dark factions. However, when the news of him being injured spread, it caused several ripples and undercurrents inside the city.

At this moment, the strength of the city castle was waning, even the few acolytes who were friendly towards Viscount Jackson had died. Jackson who was nurturing his grief had to face with all these, and was rather overwhelmed by all these.

Leylin who stayed in the villa outside the city heard some of the news.

However, since he had returned from the venture, he always holed himself in the experiment lab, and even refused many invitations from the city lord's castle and other factions.

Under the bright light, Leylin stared; his eyes fixated on a petri-dish.

On the surface of the glass petri-dish, a small red lump of flesh continuously swelled, and from it grew many tentacles.

Leylin picked up another pipette, and placed a drop of the yellow potion on the lump of meat.

Sssii! The meat dissolved, and turned into a puddle of crimson-red with yellowish blood fluid.

"I have finally managed to purify it, the primordial blood essence of the huge snake!" Leylin looked at the petri-dish, as if seeing the most precious treasure in this world.

"A.I. Chip! Scan composition!"

[Beep! Mission establishing, scanning in progress...]

[The list of genes has been generated, comparing to database....]

“99.8%.....”

[Beep! Similarity of the blood essence with a normal huge python: 99.8%! Determined as the blood essence of original huge pythons! After remodelling in the later stage, there were new types of genes...]

The A.I. Chip continuously reported the conclusions, and even projected the list of genes in front of Leylin's eyes.

From the multicoloured image, the blood essence of the huge Mankestre snake that Leylin saw earlier was actually the same with regular huge pythons.

“Indeed! This huge python is the result of an experiment by magicians!” Leylin nodded his head. He still remembered clearly that after the A.I. Chip had scanned the huge python, it had added the words half-adult to its name.

However, if not for the accuracy of the A.I. Chip down to the atomic level, Leylin would never unravel the secret behind it. Even other magicians would not be able to realise the difference.

“Two more days, and that area should be calm again!”

Leylin informed his subordinates that he was going to undergo a very long duration of experimentation and that they are not to bother him with any matters and then he secretly left the villa.

Chapter 69: Vestige Traces

The night was dark, and there was tranquility. Dried up old trees littered the surroundings, and on the branches, there were ravens ruffling their feathers.

Bang!

The grass patch below the tree tore open, revealing a dark passage beneath it.

Leylin was draped in black robes, and his face was veiled. One would not be able to see his face.

The nearby villa was still lit with lanterns, and the patrolling mercenaries did not know that their master had already left the villa.

In Leylin's experiment lab, there was a direct passage which Leylin set up himself, with no one being the wiser.

"Since that huge Mankestre snake is an experimental body, there should be some experiment labs nearby from magicians! Moreover, that huge Mankestre snake had actually occupied Dark Night Woods for a few years, and not one magician had stepped forward to deal with it. There could only be one reason for that!"

Leylin's eyes flashed, "That experiment lab is most likely abandoned! The magician in it, due to some circumstances, could no longer look after it, or is most likely dead! That is why the huge snake could escape from it!"

For magicians, seeking ancient vestiges had always been in their best interests.

The remnants left by ancient Magi, such as official Magi experiment labs, would often contain many valuable data and ingredients, high levelled research, spells and Magic Artifacts with immense might. These were all items that magicians always sought after.

Rumour had it that more often than not, there were examples of acolytes who were lacking having stumbled upon ancient remnants, and beginning to wield tremendous power after that.

Of course, there were failed ventures and explorations where they finally died under the ancient mechanisms or curses from the corpses.

However, for magicians, searching for vestiges was still a very beneficial thing to do.

From an experiment lab which could create a half-adult huge Mankestre snake, any one item in it could let Leylin immediately get rich quickly, and even obtain more precious ingredients and knowledge to pave the way for him to advance into an official Magus in future.

“Since I have already found some traces, I will definitely have a look at the experiment lab!”

Leylin’s gaze was determined. He was not afraid of risks, especially when the benefits strongly outweigh the risks.

For this venture, he had specially prepared many items, which were enough measures to counter against any sudden developments.

As for his subordinates? Not only were they easily susceptible to divulging news, but under the traps set up by official Magi, even Knights were only an existence slightly greater than ants. They were completely of no use, hence Leylin even kept his departure from them.

Leylin journeyed for several nights in a row. Since there were no people around, he could use many of his methods.

He splashed a green potion onto the ground, bringing about a ball of green coloured wind particles, which wrapped Leylin’s body within them. His whole body seemed to turn into a breeze, and disappeared into the night.

What Leylin used was a hastening potion which he had formulated throughout the years.

As an outstanding Potions Master, no matter if it was using potions to journey or fight, he was entirely in his element.

In the original passage, where Leylin and the others had battled the huge Mankestre snake.

People had already been sent from the city lord's castle to retrieve the mutilated corpses and largely dissected huge Mankestre snake. What remained were many impressions on the ground, as well as traces of flames and frost, which spoke of the intense fight that had occurred previously.

"The scenario from earlier has already been recorded down by the crystal ball given by the academy. To use that to signify the completion of mission is absolutely acceptable."

From the battle previously, Leylin had used the crystal ball to record only most of the exploration mission, especially the corpse of the huge Mankestre snake at the end.

With some ingredients from the corpse, as well as the record from the crystal ball, it could be said that Leylin's mission in Extreme Night City was finally completed.

However, he had no plans whatsoever to leave at all.

Not mentioning whether the mess of a war that Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was entangled in at the moment already had a victor, Leylin did not want to go back during this period.

He had just managed to formulate a modified formula for the Azure Potion. Now would be the best time to break through into a Level 3 Acolyte, so why would he risk going back to the academy and expose himself in the process?

As for Extreme Night City, Leylin did not even see an official Magus, which put him at ease to carry out his experiments and breakthrough.

Leylin would wait for a buffer of three years after the dust settled for the war of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Although his advancement to a Level 3 Acolyte would still be fast that way, it would not be as eye catching!

At that time, he could figure out an excuse, and cover his tracks easily.

As for the corpses of the acolytes on the floor, naturally, they had already been inspected by Leylin. Back then, he had kept all the valuable

items for himself before bringing the heavily injured Jackson and Murphy to leave the place.

“However, that group of acolytes were all paupers, and not a single one of them had more than 10 Magic Crystals! Only on that Half-Beast Man acolyte, there was still a frost smelted gold rune which can be considered to be rather good!”

Leylin grumbled in his mind, as he came to the centremost area of the cave.

Under the light radiated by the Flash Jellyfish, the whole cave was extremely bright. Leylin could see that on the ground at the centre, traces of where the huge Mankestre snake was coiled were still apparent.

“It actually managed to make such a deep impression, they are indeed of the same nature narrated by compendiums: an extremely lazy being.

Leylin crouched and felt the earth that was sunken in.

“A.I. Chip! Record composition!”

[Recording completed, comparing to normal earth data in the databank. The target has 0.0005% of compound remnants, and is tentatively determined to contain Maiké alloy!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Maiké alloy was a type of artificial metal, made by spells of magicians, that was extensively used to construct incubation pools in experiment labs.

“This is right!” Leylin eyes flashed with glee.

“A.I. Chip, is it possible to follow the tracks of the snake and find its original breeding area?”

[Scanning in progress! The target’s data has been heavily covered by other creatures and is lacking in important information. Mission failed!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Leylin scanned the surroundings. The ground was littered with claw marks from various creatures. Such was the devastation left by the

parasitic abilities of the huge Mankestre snake.

“What a pity....” Leylin shook his head.

“However, according to the habits of the huge Mankestre snake and the clues left by the other traces, that experiment lab should not be far off from here!”

Leylin commanded the A.I. Chip, “A.I. Chip, scan every item in the surroundings!”

[Missions establishing, beginning imaging!]

Along with the A.I. Chip intonation, the image of a blue coloured map was projected in front of Leylin’s eyes.

In the centre was a huge cave, with many small tunnels in the near vicinity. Leylin even found a few parasitic bodies that had survived through sheer luck. However, it was unknown how much longer they could live for when the parent was dead.

The map expanded until it finally reached the limit of its range.

Leylin’s brows furrowed, “ A.I. Chip, restart scan! Lower the precision to the lowest, and search in an extended perimeter! Begin running through a checklist of radioactive density!”

With the command, the map in Leylin’s eyes turned more out of focus. However, the perimeter extended, almost encompassing the nearby geography of the cave too.

“Maintain this area and precision!”

Leylin walked out of the cave and began running towards a direction. Following his movement, the edge of the map also continuously expanded....

A few hours later, Leylin walked towards a large black granite boulder.

“The surrounding areas have already been inspected. Although the radioactive densities are higher, this should be where the shedding of the huge Mankestre snake took place previously!”

“As for the only place with no radiation, but not within the scope of the A.I. Chip’s scanning perimeter, this is the only place!”

Leylin looked at the large black granite boulder in front of him. This boulder was of the height of several humans, almost the size of a small mountain.

In the map that the A.I. Chip scanned, this huge boulder had absolutely no traces of radiation. Even standing before it now, the A.I. Chip still did not detect anything.

“This kind of scenario has happened several times back at the academy. It is due to the spell formations set by official Magi, which are interfering with the detection of the A.I. Chip!”

Leylin stroked the surface of the large black granite boulder. It was ice cold, damp, and had algae growing on it.

“However....What I must do to enter?”

Leylin exerted strength in his right arm and grabbed some of the rock powder.

“A.I. Chip! Analyse composition!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, in the process of gathering data....] The A.I. Chip’s voice continuously intoned, and a screen appeared in front of Leylin that was densely packed with the various data of the granite rock.

“It seems like there are no differences between this and a normal granite rock!” Leylin drew the data of normal granite rock and made a comparison. However, he finally had to acknowledge that the magician defended his secrets very well. Leylin had absolutely no way of finding the entrance to the experiment lab.

“However, since that huge Mankestre snake was able to come out, it means that the defense in the spell formation has some sort of problem. I just require more time to inspect....”

Leylin stroked his chin and began setting up a tent beside the granite rock.

He decided to stay here for a long time in order to continuously detect any loopholes or weakness in the spell formation, hoping to find a way to enter.

After all, there won't be anyone coming to the vicinity of the withering woods anymore, especially when the city lord's castle has sent people to retrieve the corpses of the acolytes, troops and the huge snake.

After chewing on several biscuits that he brought along with him, Leylin began to analyse the spell formation on the large black granite boulder.

Of course, he only dared do this as he was sure that the owner of the lab was already dead through his observations and conjectures. Who knew if that unknown magician had long since died a natural death.

"After having been here for so long, yet with no magicians coming out, the accuracy of this conjecture has yet been raised by 30%.

Leylin stared at the large black granite boulder before him with a zealous expression contained within.

"If I manage to dispel the spell formation, the items in there are all mine!"

For Leylin, who was a Level 2 Acolyte, an experiment lab belonging to an official Magus was a huge treasure trove!

"Only that... The traps set by official Magus are extremely dangerous. I must absolutely not be blinded by greed and fall into a trap!"

Chapter 70: Gnawing Slate

Time passed by. In the blink of an eye, Leylin had tarried beside the large black granite boulder for 5 days.

In those five days, Leylin tried every method he knew on the large black granite boulder. He finally found a few loopholes he could exploit.

Leylin already confirmed that the granite boulder had a spell formation set up within. But it was in a damaged state.

According to the wear and tear, this formation had already been in effect for over a hundred years.

The cause of this extensive damage might very well have had something to do with the huge Mankestre snake's escape earlier.

"Some portion of the magic spell formation has already been damaged by that snake. That's why there are detectable traces leaking out. Without those leaks, even with the A.I. Chip's assistance, finding this place would not have been easy."

Glee spread across Leylin's face.

Due to his experiments these past few days, he managed to assemble a set of spells that gave him a 70-80% chance of opening the entrance to this experiment lab.

The cyclical timing inherent to this spell formation meant that the damaged parts only appeared at certain times. Leylin needed to wait for this window of opportunity.

The sun gradually set and the surrounding area became shrouded in darkness.

Owing to the death of the huge Mankestre snake, the withering woods would eventually recover its former vitality. Unfortunately, this would require at least a hundred years. Right now, there was only that deathly suffocating silence permeating the withering woods, which would insidiously choke anyone who dared enter.

Leylin did not care a whit. Oblivious to the heavy atmosphere, he sought out a level rock and started brewing potions on it.

Moonlight fell. Very soon the woods was enveloped in a layer of silver sheen. The full moon today was exceptionally bright. Curiously, there was a tinge of saffron tinting the moon.

Leylin snapped open the pocket watch he brought with him, "It's almost midnight!"

He rose and sauntered to the side of the large black granite boulder. As moonlight from the full moon shone on the surface of the granite rock, its black stone skin suddenly came off and revealed a network of blood vessels coalescing into a silvery archway. They pulsed continuously as if absorbing the moonlight.

"This is it!" Leylin's eyes flashed. He quickly emptied the contents of the potions he just brewed onto the surface of the granite rock.

Sssii! A large amount of white mist rose and corroded the surface of the rock, leaving the network of blood vessels in chaos.

"Karamanda...." Leylin chanted the incantation softly. His voice sounded extremely depressed like the muttering of a jilted woman.

In time with the chanting noises, the silvery network of veins settled and continued to combine, then finally turned into a circular passage.

Seeing this, Leylin was elated. His chanting voice became more frenzied as he repeatedly tossed the few ingredients in his hands into the passageway.

Bang! Along with Leylin's final chant, the large black granite boulder completed its shape change. Close to Leylin, the silvery archway earlier disappeared. Instead, the entrance to a dark tunnel materialized.

"A fake passageway actually got conjured!" Leylin shook his head and shrugged his shoulders.

At that instant, the eyes of the black raven perched on his shoulders, glinted with human intelligence.

“By harnessing some of this spell’s effect, I should be able to use this raven to break into the experiment lab in a short timeframe. Everything it sees would then be relayed into my right eye like a holographic projection!”

As Leylin shut his right eye, the raven cocked its head lightly before giving a cry. Then, it directly flew into the dark tunnel.

Many scenes flashed past Leylin’s closed right eye.

He felt like he was flying. The scenery below him were all relayed into his mind’s eye.

The passage was extremely short. In moments, the raven reached the other end.

Leylin saw a small-sized villa appear in front of him. Its walls shimmered with spell light.

Green coloured vines crawled and filled the wall. On it were some sort of red-coloured flowers with what looked like bone petals.

“This is....” Astonishment surfaced from the depths of the raven’s eyes, “Devil Vines? Bone Eating Flowers? I originally thought they were all extinct, but there are actually some in here!”

On the villa’s entrance was a jagged circular hole the size of Leylin’s palm. Leylin surmised that this could be the spot the Mankestre snake broke through during its escape-way back when it was but a youngling.

Near the hole, a white skeleton draped in black robes lay on a grey-coloured stone platform!

“According to the way the skeleton is positioned, it was obviously an acolyte like me who accidentally stumbled upon this place. He tried to break into the villa and perished in this sorry state!”

Leylin’s steeled his heart. He telepathically maneuvered the raven to alight beside the bones and let the bird pluck on it with its black claws.

A crash resounded, a heap of items fell from the robes.

A book, several yellow parchment paper, a heap of bottles, and a yellow

bronze ring tumbled onto the floor. A 'K' symbol was inscribed on it.

“Seems to be some kind of identity verification!” Leylin casually had the bird fiddle with the ring and peep at the book.

After using the raven's feathers to clear the dust, a row of esoteric patterns and cursive handwriting emerged.

“These characters...? They seemed to be in Ancient Terrestrial Elven language! I have seen these before in the library!”

Leylin was stunned. He immediately began to decrypt the words, “Terrestrials... Terrestrial Elves! Alchemist of the Terrestrial Elves, Torozar!”

“It is actually information pertaining to alchemy!”

Leylin was in ecstasy, “It was mentioned in the library's records that the Ancient Terrestrial Elves were renowned for their exquisite alchemy, as well as their enchanting capabilities! If I were to obtain these information, I may begin attempting some of the things recorded in the Lowian Academy Teachings....”

With the A.I. Chip's overpowered calculation abilities, the Lowian Academy Teachings, which Leylin bought earlier, was already completely decrypted. Part of data was about a method for synthesizing a Magic Artifact.

Of course, it was only a low-grade Magic Artifact. However, in Leylin's current state, this was a rather huge temptation.

He, alas, spent most of his time on Potioneering and Magic studies, so he had next to no inkling whatsoever concerning Alchemy and Enchantment. Moreover, such high level information was always kept under rigorous control. Regular acolytes did not have the clearance to access them.

Even if Leylin had a way to synthesize a Magic Artifact, it would still be extremely difficult.

Luckily, with the Alchemy information material here and the simulation capability of his A.I. Chip, Leylin completely believed that he would be

able to synthesize this Magic Artifact once he became a Level 3 Acolyte.

“Bring this book out!” Leylin was already thinking of retreating.

To him, just knowing that within the granite walls was an abandoned experiment lab with degraded defenses made today’s probe an extremely fruitful one. Obtaining advanced information on Alchemy was an unexpected bonus.

The raven grabbed the book with its claws with much effort. As it turned around, it lightly brushed the parchment paper. With a hissing sound, the ancient piece of paper disintegrated. Leylin was stunned, “Has it already eroded to this state?”

Hehe! Haha!

Just as Leylin’s raven was about to fly off with the book, the surrounding area reverberated with a child’s ominous laughter.

“The defence formation activated! Damn it, I only have two more minutes!”

The black raven flapped its wings, preparing to rise and fly away.

Ka-cha! The grey coloured platform split open, revealing a huge jaw serrated with razor sharp white teeth.

In one ferocious snap, the raven was torn to pieces.

Pu! On the surface of the giant black stone, Leylin crouched down and grabbed at his right eye with his hands.

A wave of searing pain hit him. It felt like someone was digging out his eyeball directly from its socket.

Huff Huff Huff panting heavily, Leylin slowly recovered a good while later.

The muscles of his handsome face contorted and red veins could be seen filling the white of his right eye. A blood vessel burst and drops of blood fell to the ground.

“Magic spell backlash!” Leylin sucked in a lungful of cold air and

withdrew a red potion from his sack. He unplugged it and began drinking its contents.

Several moments later, Leylin stood up, feeling much better.

“Careless! I never thought that apart from the Devil Vines and Bone Eating Flower, there was even a Gnawing Slate.”

Leylin looked at the original position of the tunnel entrance. The surface of the huge black granite boulder remained smooth. The entrance seen earlier seemed to be merely an illusion.

“Devil Vines, Bone Eating Flower, Gnawing Slate, and other mechanisms. I cannot infiltrate in this place right now, what a pity....”

Leylin deduced this from the spells he had in his possession and the ingredients he owned.

“I’m afraid that only after I advance into Level 3 Acolyte, will I be able to enter this experiment lab!”

Leylin concluded, “Anyway, I now known the true location and its access protocols. Moreover, I have visually confirmed the presence of precious informative material regarding Alchemy inside. So this venture was not a complete waste of effort!”

Right now, the experiment lab was too dangerous for Leylin. He was not someone who got easily dazzled by greed. He decided to leave exploring this place to a later date and returned to the villa to cultivate.

Leylin calmed down as he focused on resting and recuperating from the damage done to him by the spell earlier.

He then went towards the tent area where stowed his things. He then erased all traces and tracks left by his recent activities.

“This defence spell formation has lasted over a hundred years. There were almost no loopholes a random passerby could exploit. I only need to erase my tracks. Adding more defensive measures or illusory spells would be superfluous.”

Having finished arranging everything, Leylin took a last glance at the

black rock. Then, without the slightest bit of hesitation, he left.

“I have warned them before about the laboratory in the manor, so Anna and the others would not dare enter it. If I can return undetected to my laboratory, I can keep what happened here a secret.”

“Concerning Extreme Night City, Jackson only suffered some superficial injuries. He should be mostly have recovered by now after following my treatment. He is most likely pretending to be seriously injured to lure any turncoat and renegade from their snake holes!”

“Whatever the case may be, matters regarding the city lord’s castle are not my concern. I need not understand them. When I get the promised Hove Violet Leaves, I will immediately begin brewing the potions needed to breakthrough into Level 3.”

To Leylin, increasing his own power was all-consuming. Otherworldly influences and the sort were considered a waste of energy. Since he did not care about such things, he was also disinclined to paying attention to these matters.

But if anyone dared to entertain the idea of harming him, he would kill them!

As far as magicians were concerned, eradicating a few worldly powers or factions required almost no effort.

Chapter 71: Preparing To Breakthrough

The heat wave caressed the earth. In the blink of an eye, a few months passed, and it was autumn.

In the small villa, Leylin swirled a tastefully refreshing iced grape juice in a wine glass.

He was attired in a leisurely frivolous apparel favoured by nobles and looked quite lackadaisical.

“A.I. Chip! Bring up my current stats!”

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 2 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.2, Spiritual Force: 7.1, Magical Power: 7 - (Magical Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

“I have finally reached the 7 Spiritual Force bottleneck!” Leylin sighed as he looked at the data.

After getting back from his solo exploration several months ago, Leylin got busy brewing potions to breakthrough the Spiritual Force bottleneck.

Viscount Jackson had expeditiously sent over a warehouse full of Hove Violet Leaves. At the same time, Fraser and the others continued to purchase ingredients found elsewhere as per Leylin’s standing orders.

Sadly, the modified Azure Potion’s brewing success rate was on the low side while consumption of Hove Violet Leaves was outrageously high. On top of that, Leylin could only take in the potion during the most optimal times recommended by the A.I. Chip for maximum medicinal effect. It was only now that he reached a Spiritual Force of 7.

“Young Master! Fraser’s back!”

On the other side of the door Anna wore a black gauze ensemble that showed off her alluring curves beneath the fine muslin, especially her snow white thighs which was seductively enclosed in black fishnet stockings.

Right now she acted as Leylin’s chief aide, at the same time she had

control over the finances, which could be considered as having high authority. However, in the presence of Leylin she was as gentle and as obedient as a little pussycat.

“Let’s go! I’ll go meet him!”

Leylin got up and left the room, his leather shoes gave off a thudding noise on the floorboard with each step.

“Young Master!” Upon seeing Leylin’s arrival, two maids hurriedly curtsied.

“En?” Leylin suddenly walked in front of a maid. She had snow white thighs and perky breasts, but right now her head was lowered and she dared not move.

“You’re new here?” Leylin caressed her smooth chin. Her face still had some residual baby fat on it making her look extremely adorable.

“Yes... Yes, I am Trixy, the daughter of Luke who works in your farm ranch milord!” The maid replied softly did not dare reject Leylin’s teasing.

“Work hard!” Leylin waved his hands as he left.

“That maid earlier should now be very agitated huh?” Leylin slowly rubbed his fingers against each other as he revealed a mischievous smirk.

Ever since he had been transported to this world, because he occupied the body of a youth, he realised that his attitude was reverting more and more towards one befitting the host’s age. During emergencies or crises, it was not obvious. But now that he was in safe haven, he could not help but have some notions of tomfoolery.

He expunged the expression on his face as he strolled to the warehouse. He was once again the great and stern magician lord.

“Young Master!” Fraser stated as he half knelt on the ground. “Your subordinate, I have collected another 20 pounds of Hove Violet Leaves from Austere Winter City. They have all been stored inside the warehouse!”

“Very good!” Leylin walked to the warehouse, and took a look at the

amount and quality of the Hove Violet Leaves.

Amongst the whole pile, the only ones that could be used for potion brewing were those whose central stems were thinner than the stalk of an oat. The amount of Spiritual Force an Azure Potion provided remained considerable enough to justify Leylin's continued use, despite the increasingly high resistance towards the potion he was developing.

The bizarre purple leaves filled half of the warehouse. There was a strange scent permeating the air, a rather stinging sulfuric pungence.

Leylin casually picked up a purple leaf, "A.I. Chip, detect properties!"
[Beep! Gathering data!]

After a brief pause, the various properties of the Hove Violet Leaves were projected onto Leylin's visual field. The chemistry, the medicinal properties— even the smidgen of various residue from other items on the surface of the leaf— all projected by the A.I. Chip.

"Based on this inspection, this batch of Hove Violet Leaves will still do!" Leylin nodded his head.

"Young Master!" Fraser lips moved, yet he did not speak.

"Say what you want to say!" Leylin's brows furrowed.

"All the Hove Violet Leaves in Extreme Night City have now been purchased by us. What remains are those of poor quality. In fact, Greem and I have already seen a number of counterfeit batches from traders who wished to hoodwink us.

"Indeed, Hove Violet Leaves are a special product only found in Eastwood Province. They take at least a year to grow!"

Leylin stroked his chin, and estimated the amount of Hove Violet Leaves in the warehouse.

"Put our purchasing drive on hold until next year's Hove Violet Leaves hit the markets. We can then resume buying them again!"

From this recent batch of Hove Violet Leaves, Leylin discovered that the quality was getting poorer and poorer. Some could not even be used for

potion brewing.

Indeed, it seems like he purchased quite a huge chunk of the total Hove Violet Leaf production in this area.

The ingredients in the warehouse should be enough to meet my requirements for manufacturing enough potions to get to Level 3 Acolyte. As for official Magus, it is not something that I can consider right now.

Leylin entered into deep thought. Right now his Spiritual Force has already reached 7. He has long since brewed the Reactive Elixirs. Advancing to Level 3 Acolyte no longer posed any problem for him at all.

However, Leylin still knew nothing about how to advance to official Magus from Level 3 Acolyte. Even though Leylin was authorized to access the academy's library, he had not found any hint of the process.

It seemed like the academy had forbidden all information pertaining to this topic.

"Whether the academy or the market, I have always paid special attention to information related to official Magus. Until now, I could not even unearth a single clue.

This was also why Leylin was hesitant about leaving Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

The higher ups in the Magus World kept a tight lid on all information regarding how to advance to official Magus. More so for Leylin, who became an acolyte from afar. He had to fulfil certain requirements and run errands before he would be granted a peek at the advancement methods to study them.

"This is something out of my control. Maybe the Magus experiment lab has something that I can profit from?"

Leylin thought again of the Magus experiment lab concealed near the withering woods.

After his previous stint there, he could already confirm that the person who left the experiment lab was an official Magus. Moreover, it had been

forsaken for a long time already.

This was a piece of good news.

He only needed to be rid of all the spell formations laid on the experiment lab. Then, everything in it would be his, including the unlucky magician's items lying just outside the door.

"Level 3! I only need to advance to Level 3 Acolyte, and imbue another set of Rank 0 spells so I can depart!"

Leylin made up his mind.

.....

In a small secret lab with an extremely simple layout, there weren't many household items, only a wooden bed in the middle.

Leylin sat cross-legged atop the bed. Before his impassive face was a tangerine-yellow potion.

He was prepared and determined to breakthrough to Level 3 Acolyte.

He did not breathe a word of this to anyone. Like before, he informed Anna that he was just going to carry out an experiment. No matter what happened, he didn't want any interruptions.

It was not that he couldn't trust his subordinates but they had neither the strength nor the ability to render aid if anything untoward happened. They wouldn't be of much use so he might as well hide the fact that he was attempting to breakthrough.

After all, he 'disappeared' from the villa from time to time. His manor staff had gotten inured to it by now.

Once he had accomplished what he set out to do, when he next appeared before his people, everything would have been fait accompli.

Although there might not be any prying eyes or ears, especially any spies sent by his adversaries, he was conscientious of the possibility.

"Level 3 Acolyte, the final step before official Magus. For first grade and second grade acolytes, Level 3 has always been hailed the peak of

cultivation.

A Level 1 Acolyte could merely use energy particles, but could not cast any spells yet. Their fighting strength was roughly equivalent to a Knight's. As for Level 2 Acolytes, they were able to cast some Rank 0 spells. Though these were simple ones, it bolstered their battle abilities to such an extent that they surpassed the Knights.

Level 3 Acolytes, on the other hand, had exponentially greater Spiritual Force than regular humans. They had a more profound understanding of spell theory and its uses in combat. They were masters of techniques like instantaneous casting, which enabled extremely rapid casting of prepared spells. Even Grand Knights were not their opponents.

Moreover, Level 3 Acolyte had always been considered the preparatory stage to becoming an official Magus. The faster one advances as a Level 3 Acolyte, the higher chances of eventually becoming an official Magus.

Among Magus academies and factions, the number of official Magi was extremely small. Level 3 Acolytes were universally considered the backbone of any academy's or faction's battle strength!

Any young Level 3 Acolyte was counted as a valuable asset of the academy. These institutions were inclined towards dedicating resources to nurture them, hoping that these seeds would advance beyond Level 3 Acolyte in the future.

"Breaking through Level 3 Acolyte requires mastery of two spell models, a Spiritual Force of 7, and the aid of Reactive Elixirs!"

Leylin picked up the tangerine-yellow potion before him.

"I have long since gotten both the elixir and the requisite spell mastery. Now, with the help of the Azure Potion, I have also met the Spiritual Force requirements, all within a few months. This speed has long since surpassed Jayden's aptitude. A fifth grade acolyte!"

Even if they were genius acolytes of the fifth grade, before the huge gulf between Level 2 Acolyte and Level 3 Acolyte, 3 years would be the minimum they would spend getting there.

However, after obtaining the potion, Leylin's speed had long since surpassed that of Jayden and the rest. In no time at all, he had reached the standard required to advance to be a Level 3 Acolyte.

“As long as my Spiritual Force gets enhanced, even if the breakthrough fails, I can always make another attempt. My body would suffer some major damage though, so being successful in one go is for the best!”

For the final time, Leylin mentally reviewed all information regarding advancement to a Level 3 Acolyte. After confirming that he had not left anything out, he popped the cork keeping the tangerine-yellow potion securely plugged.

“This Reactive Elixir is not meant to be drunk!”

Leylin undressed and smeared the Reactive Elixir over his face, limbs and chest.

The potion felt rather cool wherever he smeared it. However, after a few moments, a wave of heat gradually coursed through his skin. In an instant, his skin started to shudder and turn beet red.

[The Reactive Elixir is taking effect, medicinal properties under surveillance!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

As the potion continued to take effect, Leylin felt as if the potion coating his skin had come alive and was worming its way through his pores and into his body.

Chapter 72: Advancing to Level 3 Acolyte

An itch!

An unbearable itch!

Leylin felt that his bones had split open and many ants came crawling out from within. An extremely itching sensation was coursing through his body at this moment.

“Damn it! And I actually have to enter a deep meditative state under this condition and remodel the mind runes.”

Leylin’s face turned red. He clenched his teeth and resisted the urge to scratch his body as he closed his eyes.

Due to the adverse yet intense effect on his body, Leylin spent several more times longer to enter a meditative state.

Inside the meditation, Leylin seemed to have come to a place.

The surroundings were a grayish blur. Up in the air, there were many lights which seemed like stars, illuminating this place.

Leylin lifted his head. In the air were 24 mysterious runes— glowing with a fluorescent light— which gathered to form a circle.

These were the mind runes that he had painstakingly constructed during the past few years.

Although these mind runes were all constructed through various special means, each and every one of the construction required a huge amount of effort and time. Previously, Leylin had spent more than a year before he could finally construct them in his mind.

“The mind runes of a Level 2 Acolyte cannot be considered to have fully consolidated. A Level 3 Acolyte has to integrate the mind runes together based on the foundation set in Level 2 Acolyte. Moreover, there needs to be a reinforcement of the sea of consciousness!”

Leylin was extremely curious towards that state too.

Right now, he was in a completely ‘conscious’ state. The sea of

consciousness did not appear in any parts of his body. At least, the A.I. Chip had already used a microscopic scan at the atomic level on his body but yet could not find anything.

“The cultivation of Magi Spiritual Force, may very well have crossed over into the aspect of souls!”

Leylin let out a sigh from the bottom of his heart. And at this moment, the sea of consciousness had a phenomenon.

A layer of tangerine-yellow light continuously permeated over the blurry, grayish mist. Not long after, the whole of the sea of consciousness turned into a bright tangerine-yellow.

“This is the effect of the Reactive Elixir! It was only with a potion that can be smeared on the body, and I also know of the ingredients it is made up of, but that it can actually affect my sea of consciousness, that is really mysterious....”

Before Leylin could gasp again, the tangerine-yellow light immediately rushed up into the sky, as if it wanted to dye the 24 mind runes into a tangerine-yellow colour too.

Bang!

The mind runes let off a glow and rejected the contamination of a foreign object, A huge force of impact travelled over. Leylin’s vision darkened, and he almost fainted.

“Suppress it!” Leylin hurriedly borrowed the strength of his Spiritual Force, to suppress the resistance of the mind runes.

Pop!

Towards the mind runes that he constructed, Leylin’s mastery over them was not little. A few seconds later, the 24 mind runes all stopped resisting, and they were dyed a tangerine-yellow

Under the contamination of the light, the many mysterious patterns appeared on the surface of the mind runes.

These patterns continuously kept extending till they had completely

covered the surface of all the mind runes.

Bang! The 24 mind runes finally stuck together, forming into an even greater rune.

In Leylin's sea of consciousness, many patterns also appeared. And after the presence of these patterns, the sea of consciousness turned even more resplendent and transparent, as if it were being reinforced.

After the reinforcement, as if listening to some command, the tangerine-yellow light hurriedly retreated, immediately vanishing in the sea of consciousness.

The large mysterious rune let off a glow, and Leylin's consciousness was pushed out from it.

"Where is this place?"

Leylin grew confused; suddenly releasing that he was in a mysterious place. The area was pitch-black, with no light whatsoever.

He wanted to reach out, but there was no concept of "hands" as if he never had any hands before.

In this manner, he floated in the air with no concept of time, yet he couldn't move.

To Leylin, in this space, every minute was like a dozen years.

This feeling could completely drive a sane person over the cliff.

Leylin was somewhat frustrated, "Haven't I advanced into a Level 3 Acolyte yet? Why would I come to this space? How long has the time passed?"

Suddenly, Leylin's heart jumped, "A.I. Chip!"

[Beep!] A bright blue screen was projected in front of Leylin and although it could not illuminate the darkness, still it made him feel much better.

[Scans have picked up that the Host's Spiritual Force is in an abnormal state. Under this circumstance, the Host will fail the breakthrough to a

Level 3 Acolyte in 5 Minutes 23 Seconds! 13 Hours 45 Minutes later, due to the failure of all organs death will ensue! Whether to use Magic Power to get rid of the status? Yes/No?]

“Yes!” Right now Leylin completely did not feel any Magic Power left in his body, but the A.I. Chip could still circulate it, which made him elated.

[Obtained Host’s confirmation and now transferring Magic Power. In the process of getting rid of the abnormal status....] Along with the A.I. Chip’s voice intonation, there was suddenly a strange movement in the pitch-black space.

Leylin’s eyes flashed open. He realised that he was still in the secret lab and that not much time had passed since he began.

“During the advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte, there are actually such strange scenarios!”

Leylin’s expression was solemn. His degree of progress was too quick, most of his knowledge had been obtained from the library and also from the simulations and conjectures of the A.I. Chip.

He had no info about some scenarios of advancing into Level 3 Acolyte.

“Normally speaking, when many Level 2 Acolytes are in the midst of advancing, they all have their Professors to explain in detail to them... but I’m unfortunate! Even Professor Kroft wouldn’t have expected that I would face a breakthrough this quickly!”

Leylin held onto many secrets and would never tell the truth. In Kroft’s eyes, he was just a newly advanced Level 2 Acolyte, so why would he tell him about some notes to pay attention regarding the advancement to a Level 3 Acolyte?

Furthermore, the books in the library were available commonly. Many things in it had vague explanations. Even if Leylin had the A.I. Chip and was able to erase the false information, together with his experiments, he wouldn’t be able to obtain the perfect results.

This caused Leylin to encounter a phenomenon that occurred during his advancement and he was at a complete loss.

“Luckily I had the A.I. Chip this time, if not I will be finished! The road to becoming a Magus is indeed very precarious!”

There was some lingering fear in Leylin’s heart.

But this, too, confirmed his deductions. The A.I. Chip had been with him when he was transported and for some unknown reason, it had merged into his soul.

Hence, when his soul met with an abnormality and was isolated and without help, he could still activate the A.I. Chip to get rid of the inner influences from the outside.

“So, advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte is not about the combination of the mind runes nor reinforcing the sea of consciousness, but about the space of darkness that comes after!”

Leylin suddenly understood much more. All these were usually precious information secrets that were not announced by professors or the academy, many factionless acolytes usually died during this aspect.

[Beep! The Host’s Spiritual Force has some change and is more lively. The Host has advanced into a Level 3 Acolyte! Spiritual Force increasing....] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Following which, Leylin felt dizzy, and his Spiritual Force increased at a rapid speed.

7.2

7.3

7.5

.....

9.7

10.1

The Spiritual Force which seemed to ride on a rocket had continuously increased. When the final number jumped, it turned into 10.1, and finally stabilising itself.

“My head hurts!”

With the sudden increase of the Spiritual Force, right now Leylin’s body could still not adapt to the change. He had a runny nose and when he touched the area, he realised that he was bleeding from his nostrils!

“The increase in Spiritual Force is too fast, and the body could not take it!”

Leylin smiled wryly but very soon his expression changed and cracking noises came from within his body. At the same time, intense pain travelled from all parts of his body continuously.

Leylin’s facial muscles contorted and he fell flat on the bed, like a shrivelled up shrimp.

“Damn it! Damn it! The Reactive Elixir’s effect is up and the backlash from the potion has started!”

Leylin howled, “A.I. Chip! Begin to coordinate with the Magic Power and get rid of the remnants from the elixir!”

A layer of a grayish-black halo of light appeared and floated on his body, enveloping his whole body. Along with the flickering of the halo, much of the yellowish-black pus was expunged from Leylin’s pores, releasing a very acute stench.

A dozen minutes later, Leylin struggled to get up. He took out a red-coloured potion from the bag lying beside him and drank it fully before his expression changed for the better.

At this moment his body was drenched in sweat and pus, bringing about an acidic stench, as if he had just been scooped out from the sewers.

Leylin tried to pick himself up. His face was pale stricken and he was weak in the knees. His eyes were sunk in as if having been bedridden with an illness for many months.

After pushing open the door of the secret lab, Leylin jingled the bell placed beside the door.

Ding Ling Ling!

A crisp yet penetrating sound rang, and it travelled far after a while.

“Young Master! You...” A few minutes later, Anna brought two maids as she rushed over. It seemed like Leylin’s lips were covered by his hands.

“It’s fine! Send me to the bathroom! I wish to take a shower!”

“Do you want me to call the herbalist or doctor over?”

“No need!”

.....

Half an hour later, Leylin lay in a pool that was constructed from marble. The warm water flowed over his body, bringing away the dirt and grime from him.

Anna was buck-naked as she nestled up against Leylin. She used a white towel to scrub his body.

“Mi....Milord! Your deer blood soup and steak!”

On the other side, Trixy too was stark naked, and her delightful curves were all exposed in front of Leylin eyes. She blushed, as she carried a propped up tray over.

The ray was made of wood and floated on the pool. Leylin picked up his utensils and ate voraciously.

Some time later, Leylin wore a loose bathrobe and reclined on a nearby chair. His back leaned against Anna’s chest and enjoyed the sensational perky abundance.

And at his side, Trixy and another beautiful were giving a massage to Leylin.

They had only donned some clothes, which were smaller than a palm. The private areas weren’t covered, only faintly discernible at times. This made it even more embarrassing yet alluring.

Trixy and the other maid were only daughters of farmers and they had toiled in the farms since they were young. They had a layer of calluses on their hands even. However, they were extremely young and their slender

figures were beautiful. Their bodies radiated the vibrancy of youthfulness. Compared to Anna, it was a kind of wild flavour.

However, right now Leylin completely did not have any interest to engage in an intense bout with them. Instead, he felt somewhat traumatic about the advancement today.

Chapter 73: Reexamination

“A.I. Chip! Bring forth my current stats!” Leylin commanded inwardly.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 3 Acolyte. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.5, Spiritual Force: 10.1, Magical Power: 10 - (Magical Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

The A.I. Chip projected the data in front of Leylin’s eyes. Apart from him, nobody else could see it.

Leylin closed his eyes, yet his mind was rapidly processing and thinking.

“En! My Vitality has increased by 0.3, which should be related to the use of the Reactive Elixir. Also, not only did my Spiritual Force increase to 10.1, I can feel that my Spiritual Force is brimming with more energy as compared to before. My perception towards energy particles in the air has increased too, so casting Rank 0 spells should now be easier!”

“The realm of a Level 3 Acolyte is indeed not something a Level 2 Acolyte can compare to. However, the process of advancing is too perilous!”

Leylin put on an expression of lingering fear. No matter if it was his consciousness being trapped in the black space, or the backlash from the Reactive Elixir, they were all developments which he had not expected.

To Leylin, all the data and information he had garnered was still too little. Although the A.I. Chip’s calculation abilities were extremely tremendous, if the basic information was not there, being able to simulate the correct advancement technique was already considered to be not bad.

As for the setback met during the advancement, due to the various differences in Vitality between people adding on to the shortage of information, even the A.I. Chip was unable to predict them.

“After all, in the library that Abyssal Bone Forest Academy opened for its students, much information had been restricted. Some high levelled information was not even released to be read by the acolytes!”

“Also, even if the A.I. Chip’s calculation abilities are comparable to 10

supercomputers, the Magus World has, at least, tens of thousands of years of history. With all of the hundreds of thousands of acolytes experiments, the results and models will surpass the A.I. Chip's calculation abilities!"

"The advancement, this time, was indeed rather lucky, and luck played an important factor in it!"

Leylin's face turn solemn, "I cannot go on like this next time! This is only for advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte! In the future, when I advance into an official Magus, I won't be so lucky if something like this happens again!"

The difficulty of the advancement from a Level 3 Acolyte to an official Magus far exceeded that of advancing from a regular human to a Level 3 Acolyte,

And if at that time there were some mistakes or oversights due to negligence, even if Leylin had a few lives, it wouldn't be enough to save him.

"After returning, I must inquire greatly about all the details pertaining to advancement into an official Magus, and not try to break through blindly again!"

Leylin gave himself this mission for the future.

"What's next is to wait until my body has adapted to the sudden increase in Spiritual Force, and muster the few Rank 0 spells that only Level 3 Acolytes can learn, then go back to reexamine that lab!"

Leylin opened his eyes and sent Anna and the other two maids away. After setting up a circle of warning with a spell formation, he dragged his weary body onto the bed on the other side and entered into slumber.

.....

In the blink of an eye, half a month had passed like that.

Night and the splendor of moonlight shone upon the ground. It was another full moon night.

Nearby the withering woods, beside that same large black granite boulder, Leylin muttered an incantation and repeated the same procedure

as before.

Seeing the same dark hole of the cave, Leylin smiled and walked in.

After the observation of his previous exploration, he had already roughly understood the rules that were governing the spell formation. Moreover, he recorded all the danger inside there and had a way to counter them.

Furthermore, he had already advanced to a Level 3 Acolyte and had more confidence to break the defensive mechanisms laid by the unknown Magus.

The black tunnel passage was very short, and the surface was extremely shiny, reflecting Leylin's black robed figure. It was even projected at multiple angles on the wall behind Leylin.

The villa that Leylin had seen previously was at the back of the tunnel. The Devil Vines and Bone Eating Flowers still littered the floor. There were even grey slates on the floor, and within it resided the Gnawing Slate.

On the door of the villa, there was a circular hole. At the side of it was a corpse and a black diary which brought lustre lay beside the corpse. Seeing this book that had records of Alchemy, Leylin's heart began to palpitate faster.

In Leylin's eyes, the exterior of the villa was set up with a dangerous halo of light coming from magic spells, and it was unknown how many traps were concealed under the brilliant light.

Hehe! Haha!

Just as Leylin's right foot stepped on the stone slate, a childish laughter sounded. The slates on the floor twisted open and revealed a mouth filled with razor sharp teeth, snapping viciously at Leylin!

"The first defense! Gnawing Slate!" Leylin smiled and tossed a gob of black stuff into the huge mouth.

Ka-Cha! The huge mouth gobbled up the black mass.

Pu! The grey mouth chewed, and immediately spit the black residue out. A red tongue continuously flickered outwards, and spat a yellowish green

spittle.

This scene looked very much like a regular human eating something disgusting and spitting it out.

“With Stinky Stench Flower, Faeces Carapace Mantis, and the Rotten Stemmed Grass as the components of this vomiting powder! It is indeed the bane of the Gnawing Slate!” Leylin looked at the grey slate vomiting again, which immediately grew two small legs as it ran away, and the sight made Leylin laugh.

“To the unknown Magus, this should be a temporary lab since the spell leaned towards concealment. As for its resistance, there should only be 3 layers! Moreover, using the Gnawing Slate, Devil Vines and Bone Eating Flowers combination, this is the trademark defensive measures of the Michael School of Thought!”

Leylin walked towards the front door, and immediately grabbed the black diary with his hands.

It was extremely heavy, and carrying it felt like carrying a brick. It was probably made with special materials.

Leylin kept the diary in his robes and walked towards the large door.

A layer of blackish green vine immediately wrapped around the door, and on it, many red petals bloomed. The petals assembled, and actually formed the face of a female.

“Intruder! This is somewhere that you shouldn’t have come!” The petals formed the opening and closing of the lips as the female talked.

“The Magus in there is already dead, I will inherit his fortune! As for you, I will keep your existence alive, and give you all the nourishment you require for evolving, how is it?”

Leylin took a red coloured fruit from his sack, “To you, the whole experiment lab cannot even be compared with this ingredient in my hand!”

“With it, you may even leave in the future, and regain your freedom,

returning back to the woods where you came from....” Leylin spoke softly, with a tinge of beguilement.

“Freedom!” Hesitation and contemplations streaked across the woman’s face.

“I cannot betray the promise from before! Outsider, please leave!” The woman struggled, but she still rejected Leylin’s proposition. A green vine continuously writhed, as if it would strike anytime.

“Sigh....” Leylin returned the fruit to his sack and sighed, “I thought that I wouldn’t have to strike!”

“Stubborn intruder, only death will be your ending!”

The Bone Eating Flower howled, this time changing into the face of a male, and many black vines immediately came lashing forward.

Bang! The black shadow charged forward, and Leylin ducked with his body. The thick vines slapped the floor, and the stone pieces flew in the air, revealing a huge pit.

“Don’t be so impulsive, what if you damage the experiment lab?”

A layer of green light flew into the vine in the air, turning into a ball of light, and enveloped the flower and vine completely. The vine’s attack speed decreased.

Leylin’s brows furrowed and he took out a black powder from his sack, before sprinkling it all over the ground.

Moreover, as he scattered the powder, Leylin hurriedly chanted an incantation.

“Intruder! Die!” The human face formed by flower petals roared, and continuously changed, sometimes it was the voice of a male, and sometimes it had the face of a female.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The blackish green vines were continuously brandished and hit many holes in the surrounding walls of the cave.

Leylin relied on the stats of a Knight to dodge, and his incantation never stopped.

Finally, after Leylin ran around the villa, the surrounding was already scattered with the black powder.

At this moment, the chanting stopped. Leylin pointed a finger at the human face, "Go to hell! Cloud of Afterlife!"

Boom!

The black powder continuously dissolved, turning into a gaseous body, and formed into an ominous black cloud that engulfed the entirety of the villa.

Sssii! From within travelled noises, which made Leylin recall the decomposition process of a man eating plant.

The black clouds grew denser, finally shielding what was happening within.

However, there were the occasional sounds of the Bone Eating Flower which continuously waned and finally disappeared, only leaving behind decomposing sounds, which would make people cringe.

5 minutes later, the black smoke dissipated, revealing the villa from before again.

By this moment, the surface of the villa had been severely corroded, and it looked as if it was going to collapse any moment.

The Devil Vines and Bone Eating Flower had long since disappeared, leaving behind only a few remains.

"What a despotic spell! Cloud of Afterlife, a Rank 0 spell which only Level 3 Acolyte can muster. Each use costs 5 Spiritual Force and 5 Magic Power, but it is worth it!"

Leylin nodded his head approvingly.

With one use of Cloud of Afterlife, not only did the Devil Vines and Bone Eating Flower disappear, the villa had suffered from extreme corrosion, leaving behind only part of the defense, which could be said to

no longer pose a threat to Leylin.

Moreover, the Cloud of Afterlife was a Shadow, Dark Element spell which was the least destructive. It was something Leylin specially chosen in order to destroy the spell formation on the villa, at the same time leaving behind the construction of the villa.

“Only that.... The villa seems to have been corroded, and cannot stay erect for much longer!”

Leylin walked forward and knocked on the wooden door. Crash! The wooden door immediately crumbled into many pieces and fell to the ground.

Chapter 74: Great Magus Serholm

“I must hurry!” Leylin strode into the villa.

“A.I. Chip! Scan the main structure of the villa!”

[Mission establishing, beginning scan....]

Previously, the A.I. Chip could not scan the blueprints of the villa due to the layer of spell formation and defensive measures on the surface of the villa. But, that was not the case now.

Very soon, a layer of light in the shape of a blue map appeared in front of Leylin’s eyes.

“En! There are two storeys in the villa. On the higher floor, it’s the bedroom and bathroom! The first floor would be the guestroom. As for the experiment lab, it is located underground! The entrance is built into the back of a wardrobe!”

Under the scan of the A.I. Chip, the interior of the villa was displayed in front of him fully.

“To the bedroom first!” Leylin rapidly ran up the second floor.

Gripping the yellow bronze handle, Leylin opened the large door to the bedroom. A layer of dust immediately infiltrated his nose. The surface of Leylin’s body automatically created a layer of black coloured light membrane, shielding him from the dust.

Leylin then scanned the area, “Everything is all neatly placed!”

The bedroom was very small, with only a bed, a table and a chair, and a closet.

Leylin opened the closet, “The clothes have all disappeared, it seems that the owner here has prepared to abandon this place!”

Although he had thought of this before, Leylin was still somewhat disappointed.

He immediately rummaged through the bedroom but found nothing of value. Even the drawers of the table were empty, and there was only some

blank parchment paper in the corners of the room.

“These should be remnants of the diary or record book! A pity that there’s nothing written on them!”

Leylin felt that it was somewhat a shame. His eyes suddenly flashed, “Diary! I got it!”

The yellow parchment paper was very old and seemed as if would break into many pieces. However, to Leylin, these few pieces of parchment paper were supreme treasures!

“A.I. Chip! Scan the traces on the parchment paper!”

Leylin ordered, and a layer of blue light was immediately projected in front of his eyes. As for the parchment paper, lines of red handwriting were intermittently surfacing.

“This is something that the Magus wrote on a piece of parchment paper, but traces of his handwriting were left on these pieces of parchment!”

Leylin was somewhat elated. Magi would only use spells to appraise items, but there were spells that defended against such attempts. However they had absolutely no defences against Leylin’s previous world’s graphology, and he eventually found some clues.

The information on the parchment paper was extremely disorderly. Many characters were overlapping with one another, and even the A.I. Chip was unable to differentiate between them.

After putting together the scattered pieces, what little information Leylin gotten should have been this diary:

September 1st, clear. Extreme Night City is a very tranquil city, I hope I can carry out my experiments here peacefully....

December 5th, dark. Oh! Damn it! The experiment has failed yet again, as expected! The difficulty of synthesizing bloodlines has far exceeded my expectations....

What remained was extremely vague, and even the dates could not be deciphered:

After reading Wayne's letter, I conducted a few more experiments. I have to admit, he was right, I was heading in the wrong direction all along, this is indeed some sorrowful news....

The experimental body has failed completely. As for what's left of the eggs, even if they could hatch, my plan has completely failed. Oh, my heavens....

There is nothing of value here anymore. Maybe I should go to the Dylan Gardens to have a look. Wayne said that his experiments have already achieved a few stages of success, this is a great piece of news for us....

The contents of the diary stopped here, it was a continuous record of a Magus' failure and ended in the abandonment of the lab.

Besides a person called Wayne from the Dylan Gardens, Leylin gained nothing whatsoever.

However, there were too many Wayne's, and as for Dylan Gardens, Leylin never heard of it before.

"Not right, wait a minute!"

Leylin's eyes suddenly flashed, and in the corner of the parchment paper, he discovered a name.

The faint red writing was extremely vague, hence, Leylin almost missed it earlier.

"Nor... Norco Curadu Sfar!"

"Norco Curadu Sfar!" Leylin's eyes widened, "Great Magus Serholm!"

"Could it be that the owner of this lab was the Great Magus Serholm?"

Norco Curadu Sfar was a legend of the South Coast! In the legends, not only was he an erudite scholar, he had obtained extremely outstanding results along the path of a Magus. He had even led the whole of the South Coast Magi to repel the countless advances of the subterranean people and marine creatures.

This kind of great Magus was the role model for all Magi in the South Coast.

Earlier in the market, the dishonest merchant who tried to sell Leylin the Lowian Academy Teachings had tried to pass off the original decrepit page as the writings of the Great Magus Serholm, but it was seen through by Leylin.

“A respected figure like this, his legacy would definitely be of value. A pity that the two storeys were left with nothing and there definitely would not be any legacy or things of the sort!”

Regret streaked across Leylin’s face, but he still memorised the contents on the parchment paper.

“I hope that there will be something to gain from the experiment lab!”

Leylin gave the bedroom one last disappointed glance before he puffed out a breath, and blew the parchment paper into bits.

Coming to the wardrobe on the first floor, originally, the in built wardrobe should have been stuck on the wall. However, due to a small crack, Leylin could now see the passage behind it.

This should be something that was done by the Mankestre Snake.

Leylin shifted away the emptied wardrobe, and the black passage appeared before him.

Pa! Leylin snapped, and a layer of light illuminated the area, dispelling the darkness and revealing a flight of steps that led downwards.

Leylin’s eyes flashed fervently as he walked down.

Clang!

The leather shoes and ground made a dull noise from friction.

Compared to the villa above, the underground space was more spacious, and was almost the size of 3 to 4 villas.

Criss-crossed walls littered the area, separating the underground lab into a few large areas.

Leylin continued down the passage, and from time to time, he could see the labelling of the areas.

An ancient handwriting was used. However, it had some relevance to the Byron language. As Leylin walked, he looked.

Data area, garden area, incubator area, potioneering area, herbology area... Each and every special area appeared in front of Leylin's eyes.

After seeing the incubator area, Leylin's eyes flashed, and he walked in.

A ball of light always floated around him, illuminating the sight of the incubator area.

What initially entered Leylin's sight were many circular glass domes, but the glasses had already cracked, revealing many rotten eggs of mysterious organisms.

Under the alert from the A.I. Chip that there were no signs of life around, Leylin put on a pair of gloves, and held a grey egg that resembled a granite stone in his hands.

[Scanning in progress, similarity level to the Mankestre Snake: 73.2%, Huge Wood Python: 34.5%, Huge Tree Lizard: 13.8%]

The A.I. Chip continuously projected the results of the scan.

"It seems like these are all the brothers and sisters of the half adult Mankestre Snake!" Leylin gasped as he saw the many dead eggs within the glass domes.

If they were all still alive, Leylin would most likely not be able to escape.

After some searching, Leylin discovered a strange incubating pool. On the surface of the glass ball, there was a circular hole that was cracked through, and the remnants of some egg shells.

"The Mankestre Snake from earlier should have been bred in this incubating pool...."

Leylin sized up the area and was unresigned as he continued searching, finally obtaining nothing. He could only pick up a dead egg that looked like a stone and toss it.

Data area, garden area, potioneering area, herbology area...

Leylin looked over everything once. The Great Magus Serholm would have definitely spent a lot of time and effort on it. The set up in each area was extremely thorough.

However, when he left, he brought along everything with him. Leylin, who originally wished to get lucky, had now also completely tossed that notion away.

Apart from the few blank pieces of parchment paper in the bedroom, there was nothing that Leylin found.

“The final area! The dissecting room!”

Leylin wore a disappointed expression that he found difficult to mask, and walked into the room.

Clang!

The steel door boomed opened and a concentrated aura of dense negative energy permeated the air. Leylin could even hear the faint wails of countless souls.

“On the way of a Magus who seeks the truth, one can never avoid spilling blood!” Leylin muttered the maxim of the Great Magus Serholm.

After sizing up the area, Leylin noticed that there were some traces of black blood on the white experiment table. He picked up some powder from it.

“A.I. Chip! Scan!”

[No surviving cells were detected! Due to various intense radiations, there are deficiencies and mutations in the fragments of the cells, unable to detect source!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“Fuck!” Leylin felt utter disappointment as he kicked the experiment table.

Towards Magi who loved explorations, nothing was more disappointing than devoting countless effort and energy to enter the vestiges of ancient times and returning empty handed.

Although the Alchemy diary could already be considered to be extremely beneficial to Leylin, compared to the Great Magus Serholm, that kind of loot was somehow inadequate.

This was the Great Magus Serholm!!! An official Magus that was at least Rank 4!!!

But in his lab, Leylin gained nothing at all, which made him extremely vexed.

“Forget it! At least I still have the diary of that unlucky fellow. I did not suffer any loss. Moreover, this experiment could very well be a lab that the Great Magus Serholm used when he was a Rank 1 or 2 Magus. If not, I would have definitely not been able to enter....”

Suddenly, Leylin was rather glad.

If he had trespassed into the lab of the Great Magus Serholm when he was at his peak. and if there had been some curse laid out, Leylin certainly would have been unable to resist right now.

Bang!

As if kickstarting some kind of chain reaction by kicking the experiment table, a gust of wind blew past the ground, turned into a whirlwind, and coiled the dust up in the air.

“Eh?” Leylin’s face tightened, and his right hand extended into his waist pouch.

The cyclone grew larger and larger, before finally forming into a translucent human figure.

“How many years... How many years has it been already! I have finally caught a whiff of a living human!” The translucent figure seemed to gasp and revealed a vague elderly visage.

Chapter 75: Holding Captive

“A spirit body!”

Leylin’s pupils contracted.

The Magi were clueless as to the appearance of spirit bodies but most of them assumed that a spirit body was the external embodiment of a soul.

Also, many Magi were in the dark with regards to the formation of a spirit body.

It seemed that the creation of a spirit body required many coincidental encounters. Sometimes, even a regular human could turn into an evil spirit after death, yet even official Magi never had such things happen to them.

Moreover, spirit bodies were extremely rare. With regards to their research, even if the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had a large number of observations, they only slightly understood the behavior of spirit bodies.

As the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy only sought knowledge, Leylin managed to learn a little about spirit bodies through a few words mentioned by professors, so he wouldn’t be like others who might be frightened.

“Who are you?” Leylin asked warily as he retreated back by several steps.

“Name?” The translucent spirit body shook its head, “I’ve forgotten that long ago!”

“Countless years have passed and I have been wandering here always, up to this day! I felt that an interesting fellow had trespassed into my lab, so I came out to have a look at you!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed, “So you are the owner of this lab! Accept my apologies, for interrupting you so presumptuously!”

Saying so, he gave a polite bow used between Magi and his gesture had no flaws.

The spirit body’s faint lips curled upwards, “I like little fellows with

manners!”

He reached out his translucent hand, and a layer of light appeared in his hands, “You can obtain a great present from this magnificent wizard!”

“Really? Honestly, this is too good!”

Leylin seemed to be ‘ecstatic’ as he stepped several steps forward. Suddenly, a gob of green ball appeared and was shot out from Leylin’s hands, which passed the spirit body, directly landing on the experiment table behind.

Sssii! A large hole corroded through the experiment table.

“A physical attack has no effect?” Leylin’s turned solemn.

“Little fellow, what are you doing?” The spirit body smiled but it seemed to be more sinister from before.

“This is the magnificent Magus Roman’s inheritance, which can allow you to successfully advance into an official Magus!”

“Are you kidding me? You are just a spirit with a grievance that impersonated your owner!”

Leylin retreated several more steps and a purple potion appeared in his hands.

“I reckon that light in your hands is not anything good!”

Bang! The potion flew from his hands and let off an intense combustion. The purple smoke rose continuously, and under the engulfment of the purple mist, the layer of light in the spirit body’s hands dispersed, revealing a sinister looking visage that howled with unwillingness. It looked rather similar to the spirit body.

“A malicious, vengeful spirit who loves to invade the physical bodies of living humans!”

Leylin thought of some distant narration and exclaimed, “Vengeful spirit! You are a vengeful spirit!”

“Who knows?” The spirit body had a bloodthirsty smirk.

“The thing that really lured you out should be this book right?” Leylin waved an Alchemy diary book, which he retrieved from his robes.

“Indeed! This is something that belongs to me!” Seeing the black diary, the eyes of the spirit body seemed to be reminded of something.

“You are the corpse at the front door. During the exploration of this lab, you were killed by the Gnawing Slate. Your spirit was trapped by the spell formation, before finally turning into a vengeful spirit!”

Leylin summarized the series of events, as he already knew who the real owner of this lab was.

“An intelligent kid!” The spirit body toyed with its fingernails, “A pity that you will die here today!”

Whoosh!

Leylin only felt a light flashing by and tried to dodge, but he found several traces of blood on his chest.

“The smell of fresh blood!” Seeing the blood, the expression of the spirit body turned even more desirous and he placed his fingers in his mouth and licked them.

“What a quick movement! The naked eye cannot keep up with it!”

A blue light appeared from Leylin’s eyes, and the A.I. Chip calculated quickly.

“You won’t be able to escape! Surrender and become an offering of the magnificent Roman!” The vengeful spirit howled and charged forward again.

His fingernails sprung forward as if turning into a razor sharp blade.

Dang! A layer of light membrane appeared from Leylin’s body, shielding him from the force of the frantic attack.

Trevor’s Revolving Shield Potion!

“I’ve caught you!” Leylin sneered.

Leylin could not entirely keep up with a spirit body, which travelled as

fast as the wind. Even if the A.I. Chip could calculate its trajectory and movements, with Leylin's physical abilities, he could not follow it. Moreover, due to the illusory appearance of the spirit body, most physical attacks were of no use.

Thankfully, Leylin's potion— the Trevor's Revolving Shield Potion which he had concocted before— was the only defensive potion that acolytes had access to. There were even some suppression effects towards spirit bodies.

The hand, which was enveloped in light, directly grabbed hold of the right hand of the spirit body.

"Im...Impossible! How are you able to touch me?"

The spirit's face contorted and it howled as it struggled.

"Spirit bodies may be very mysterious to the acolytes of other academies, but it's a pity that you met me, who came from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy! Accept the fate of a failure!" Leylin's face was serene and he took out a black coloured crystal ball.

This was something that he had managed to obtain in the academy— a Confining Spirit Sphere, which was specifically used to capture and store spirit bodies.

Chi! After the black coloured crystal ball came into contact with the spirit body, glowing light radiated and a suction force appeared on its surface, which sucked the continuously howling spirit body directly into it.

Minutes later, nothing stood in front of Leylin anymore. The inside the black crystal ball had an extra-translucent figure in it; thus, the black crystal had a resemblance to amber.

(ED Note: Amber, a gemstone that may have some fossil trapped in it.)

Leylin heaved a sigh of relief. "Thankfully this old geezer is only a Level 3 Acolyte, and fortunately, I had the Trevor's Revolving Shield Potion and Confining Spirit Sphere. If not, I would have been in trouble today..."

Concerning spirit bodies, the strength of their soul would determine their might.

As for the meditation of magicians, it is the cultivation of Spiritual Force, a type of method to strengthen their soul.

There was once an official Magus who, when he transformed into a spirit body, actually retained his spell casting abilities, finally turning into a spirit body Magus.

If today he met with a spirit body that was an official Magus, Leylin would have had no chance at all of escaping.

Once a physical body is occupied, the soul will forever be connected to it.

Looking at the black crystal ball in his hands, Leylin thought and then added several more seals on it, then placed it into a small black sack. He even tightened the mouth of the sack and hung it on his waist.

After doing so, Leylin searched the entirety of the villa. After confirming that there were no more oversights, he left the place with extreme regrets.

“What a pity!”

Leylin looked at the huge black granite boulder behind him, and without further hesitation, he rode a handsome blade steed and rapidly left the area,

Boom!

When he left, the huge black granite boulder exploded loudly, destroying the whole area and turning into ashes.

Half a month later, in the experiment lab, Leylin closed the black diary after reading its last page.

“I never thought that the synthesis of a Magic Artifact as depicted by Lowian Academy Teachings, or the ancient formula of the Tears of Mary, would include the aspect of souls....”

Leylin had only heard of this information vaguely from Kroft back in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, but he had never researched it on his own.

“I’m afraid that... I can only adopt the crudest method, which is to research and observe from various trial and error experiments. Also, I have to use the A.I. Chip to gather data.... In this aspect, perhaps Viscount

Jackson, in his capacity as a city lord, could help me”

Thinking of which, Leylin took out a black crystal ball from the corner of his lab.

The crystal ball was originally placed on an altar with mysterious runes scribbled over it and there were 3 white, lit candles that surrounded it.

Leylin knocked on the surface of the crystal ball.

Dong!

A wave suddenly erupted, and the mist in the crystal ball dispersed, revealing a vague fuzzy figure.

This figure only had the upper half of its body, and its lower limbs were replaced by the continuously swirling white mist. As for its countenance, it was that of an old geezer.

This old geezer’s expression was extremely rapt and fright permanently lingered on his face, as if it was a small worm that was solidified within amber.

Looking at this vengeful spirit, Leylin suddenly laughed and chanted an incantation.

“Where is this? Release me quickly....” Suddenly, the solidified contents in the crystal ball turned to life again. The old geezer howled. Although his face was still filled with vehemence and craziness, it could not conceal his fear and helplessness!

“How is it, Mister Roman? How is the feeling of having your thoughts frozen?”

Leylin propped the ball in front of him.

“It’s you!” The vengeful spirit head-butted the surface of the crystal ball, but it was to no avail.

Seeing Roman, who was like a helpless mosquito, wildly charge against the interior walls of the crystal ball, Leylin chuckled and flicked his finger at the surface of the crystal ball.

Bang! Roman, who was inside, seemed to have been struck by a steel hammer and collapsed onto the ground, completely dispirited.

“How is it? Now, hurry up and tell me everything you know about the experiment and your life. I may consider letting you off after that!”

Leylin’s face was impassive.

“Dream on!” Roman put on a resolute expression.

“Then I have no choice!” Leylin shrugged his shoulders and placed a fiery red rock beside the crystal ball.

“Arghhh!” Flames immediately appeared on Roman’s body, as he wailed pitifully.

“In the aspect of adding suffering to a spirit body, I have some skills! Moreover, in this crystal ball, you cannot even commit suicide. This kind of torture will last for a very long time! A veerrrrry loooooongg tiiiiime....”

Leylin dragged his last words to the extreme, which would make someone who listened to it want to sleep.

“Be... A Bewitching Charm? Dream on!” Roman, who was squeezed into the crystal ball, gritted his teeth.

“That is some unexpected mental fortitude!”

Leylin’s brows furrowed, “It seems like I have to cast it once a day in the future, to make this vengeful spirit’s life force reduce greatly....”

The life force was the foundation of vengeful spirits. When the life force of vengeful spirits is weakened, their intelligence will often lower, turning into a retard.

Under the current circumstances, adding on to the bewitching charm, there is a great chance of success.

Even if it did not drive Roman crazy, there shouldn’t be any issues at all. Leylin, as a Potions Master, had confidence in preserving Roman’s life force before it dissipated. By prolonging Roman’s life force, and repeatedly torturing him, with perseverance, Leylin would obtain the information he needed.

As for what Leylin had now, it was time. Time to toy with Roman slowly!

Chapter 76: Experiment And Precipitate

In the blink of an eye, it was already late autumn.

The arable farms were all brimming with golden yellow ear wheat. The windmills in the distance were continuously whirling and the earth seemed to be joyous from the abundance.

Dang Dang Dang!

Travelling on the road in the middle of the farms was a group of horse carriages and armoured Knights with the strength and robustness that far exceeded those of ordinary men. On the armour on their shoulder plates was an insignia of a crescent moon— this was the insignia belonging to the City Lord of Extreme Night City, Viscount Jackson!

Upon seeing the horse carriages, the farmers hurriedly avoided the road, taking off their caps and bowing.

In the middle of the Knights and troops, were several horse carriages that were veiled with black cloth. As these carriages advanced, sounds of clanging metal chains were produced from it which gave off an ominous feeling.

“Look at this direction! It seems to be headed to the villa! This should be the third group in this month!” A farmer with a brown beard muttered to himself.

“Old Johan! What are you looking at?” A farmer at the other side called out.

“Those horse carriages! I keep having the feeling that something is amiss. Previously when the wind blew, I saw the figures inside the horse carriage....” Old John’s brows furrowed.

“So what? It might be that the lord of our manor has started to purchase female slaves on a whim! You know what, our kind-hearted yet lazy manor lord, is still in his teens!”

The farmer beside Old John supported him and grumbled, “It’s better for us not to bother with the matters of these people. Let’s go! Rose Pub

recently has new rum....”

Both farmers’ silhouette disappeared gradually in the distance.

As for the other side, the procession of horse carriages stopped outside of Leylin’s manor. Greem and Fraser have long since been waiting for them.

“According to the City Lord’s orders, the ‘goods’ have arrived!” The leader of the Knights peeled his cloak open, revealing a hideous face littered with scars.

“Open the prisoners’ carriage!” With the leader’s command, the subordinates hurriedly opened the carriages carrying the prisoners, revealing the chained prisoners within.

These prisoners only wore coarse armour and these had holes and were covered in grime. They were all of different stature. Short, tall, thin and fat. However, the common similarity is the killing aura masked in their expressionless eyes.

Knights such as Greem and Fraser were extremely sensitive to killing intent. Only people who have truly committed homicide would have this aura.

“There are 5 men. They are all heinous criminals. Every legal case regarding them is enough to execute the capital punishments a dozen times.... Of course, the City Lord has long since approved of their death sentence. In the eyes of the law, they are already ‘dead’....”

The Knight leader smirked, and his face which was littered with scars turned even more grotesque. “For whatever reason, even for the sake of those innocent victims, never let them go easily....”

“Their fate is all in the hands of Young Master!” After receiving the criminals, Greem said, “However, we can guarantee that not one of them will walk out of this manor....”

After getting a satisfactory response the Knight leader brought his troops and the empty prison carriages out of the villa.

As for Greem, he forcefully brought the 5 criminals under the basement of the manor.

The torch in the darkness, the tightly locked door, and the dry stifling underground passage gave all these criminals an eerie feeling. However, with the two Knights, Greem and Fraser, they had no chance to resist.

Greem led the way familiarly, bringing the 5 criminals each into different prison. Afterwards, he came to a newly tunneled experiment lab and waited by the side.

Although there were thick walls, and the surroundings had torches which were scorching bright, Greem still felt his hairs stand on end, and cold sweat trickled down his body.

As a slave Knight, he knew part of Leylin's identity. He knew even more about the darkness and the terror behind those walls!

"That place is practically a hell!" The first time Greem was summoned inside by Leylin, he had blurted his thoughts. Afterwards, this fearless Knight had puked for an entire night.

Half an hour passed. For Greem, time seemed to have crawled like half a year long. Especially when the indistinct screams that occasionally seeped through the sturdy walls with the impression of piercing his ear drum!

May the heavens have pity! Although Greem was no good person, and his hands too were covered with blood, the moaning and wails behind the stone walls were something that a human was incapable of producing anymore.

Creak! The sturdy steel door swung open and Leylin strode out from it. On his body were traces of blood stains.

"A pity that the experimental body was not strong enough and was unable to endure the effects of the spell! I hope the next few experimental bodies will be more durable...."

To research on souls, Leylin did not have any readily available ingredients. So he could only adopt the crudest method which was to continuously gather data through experiments.

“Young Master!” Greem hurriedly bowed. “Today the City Lord’s Castle has sent another 5 people over and they are all inside their cells....”

“Very well!” Leylin nodded his head.

Although he was a Level 3 Acolyte, before advancing into an official Magus, Leylin did not have enough assurance for challenging those self-proclaimed “Light” Magi, so some things still had to be concealed.

Only Greem and Fraser were handling the reception of goods. Apart from them, Anna, too, knew a little about it. Other than them, even Fayern and Old Welker, the housekeeper, knew nothing of Leylin’s deeds.

Although they had some faint surmises, but Leylin always disposed of those useless ‘ingredients’ by cremating them with medicinal powder. Under no evidence, even if anyone had suspicions, they could not do anything towards him.

“This is the limitation of strength! The official Magi in the academy can saunter through slave markets to purchase slaves as ingredients. They could even lure and cheat acolytes but nobody could punish them! However, I am just a lowly acolyte and all by myself. I still have to mind my reputation....”

Leylin stroked his chin.

“A.I. Chip, how is the gathering of data on experimental bodies today?”

Leylin asked inwardly.

[The Spiritual Force of the experimental subject has already been discovered to have 23 abnormal cerebral fluctuations and within the cerebrum were 45 hidden locations....]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“Using the prisoners as living subjects and carrying out experiments to obtain research and data on the spirit body, seemed like it’s doable!”

Leylin nodded his head, “It’s just that the amount is still too little....”

Turning back, he looked at Greem who seemed to have been uneasy right from the start, “You did well, take your leave now!”

“As you wish, Master!” Greem bowed and heaved a secret sigh of relief as he hurriedly ran away.

As a regular human, naturally he was somewhat conflicted with these issues, not to mention the limitations set from the slave training. But Leylin’s strength had far surpassed Greem’s. Hence, he could only find it difficult to bear but did not dare to display any reluctance.

As his owner, Leylin naturally had seen through this point.

“After all, he is just a regular human and such occurrences are to be expected. As long as he is still obeying orders, the others I need not care about....” Leylin recalled Greem’s expression for a moment, before completely forgetting him. His black robes swirled about him as he disappeared into the underground lab.

“Leylin, my friend, we meet again!”

His green hair trailing the ground, Langford looked at Leylin and sincerity was shown on his face.

Ever since the previous incident between Leylin and Langford, they actually had traded a few more times. They had even established a friendship and became pretty good friends.

How things turned out like this was because Leylin discovered that when Langford was not crazy, his character was rather good. Moreover, his supplies of goods were constant and the prices in the Brey Canyon were cheaper than other magicians’.

Between magicians, benefits are the only constant. As for other things, most of them could be forsaken.

“Langford! This time, I require the goods urgently! Have a look!”

Leylin nodded his head as he handed over a yellow parchment paper with scribbles on it.

“I seldom see this side of you! Let me take a look!” Langford took the parchment paper and immediately ground his teeth.

“The faeces of the Kosh Bird, Stellar Alloy.... These items are all

connected to the aspect of souls and are not cheap items!"

Dong! A small sack was immediately slammed onto Langford's table.

After loosening the ropes around it, glittering Magic Crystals were revealed within it.

"Do not worry about Magic Crystals, these are the deposit. I will make up for the difference later with potions!" Leylin spoke in a rich and overbearing manner.

"That's right! With your ability, Magic Crystals are only a small issue!"

Langford eyes glowed, and immediately kept the Magic Crystal sack into his robes, "The Kosh Bird is on the verge of extinction. I heard that some people had chanced upon it before in the Black Death Mountain Plains. As for Stellar Alloy, I have a piece of it here...."

Langford immediately rummaged through the shelves behind him, after which he opened a small black box.

In the centre of the red satin interior was a silver-coloured rock with blue spots

"The ingredients that you need, Stellar Alloy, Flowerless Leaves... I have one of each here. As for the others, maybe you could look further within the canyon...."

Langford hurriedly piled the items together, and calculated the final value, "785 Magic Crystals!"

"Alright!" Leylin stroked his chin somewhat grudgingly, "I will go for a look at the market. Also, you have to keep a lookout for the items I requested and purchase them when you can!"

"Alright!" Once Langford agreed, his countenance changed and the green hair continuously shrank, very soon reaching the waist area from the legs.

"Lea... Leave now!" Langford's face contorted, and one of his eyes was already bloodshot.

Leylin turned around, until he left the cave for a distance before a

howling sound travelled to his ears.

“An intermittent illness like this is really scary....” Leylin’s footstep did not stop and directly headed towards the depths of the canyon.

“Hurry, look! Langford has acted up again....”

“Should we inform the protectors?”

“I’m afraid there won’t be of much use. Hehe, not long later, Langford will be chased out from this place.”

At the same moment, from both sides of the cave, many acolytes who wore pointed hats looked at the direction of the howling sound. Expressions of anxiety, indifference and schadenfreude were seen across various faces.

After being busy for some time, Leylin emerged from the Brey Canyon. On his back was an additional black backpack stuffed full of various ingredients.

Leylin turned around to look at the Brey Canyon, before riding his dark horse and left.

Chapter 77: News From The Academy

Inside a spacious and bright room was a full-length mirror.

The mirror was taller than a person and was ornamented along its sides with black leaves which contrasted with the white birch wood. A large variety of different colored gems were also embedded along its edges, making it look extremely extravagant.

At this moment, a youth wearing a swallow-tail coat was standing in front of this mirror. Behind him were a few maids, who were busy straightening out their master's attire.

After tidying up, the youth waved his hands, sending the maids away, leaving him alone in the room.

This youth judged his reflected figure-- a medium-height build with a slim stature. He was brown haired and somewhat pale-skinned. His countenance could be described as delicate, but the shining luster in both his eyes indicated he had a very active mind.

"Unknowingly, I have already turned 17!"

Leylin looked at himself in the mirror and spoke with a hint of melancholy.

Time was the most incisive weapon. It turned babies into old people and created barren deserts by drying up seas. Even if a person was a Magus, they could only slightly prolong their lives. But even if they could live for several thousand years, they could still not evade the slow corrosion of time.

Over a year had passed ever since Leylin returned from his previous exploration.

"No! I must fight the eternal curse of time and seek immortality. Only then would I be deserving of the fate of having being transported to this world!"

Leylin's eyes turned a fiery black as if a deep magnificent flame was burning within them.

“Master! The City Lord’s horse carriage is here!” Outside the door, Anna’s voice could be heard.

“Let him wait for a while, I’ll be coming over shortly.”

Leylin faced the mirror and finished sorting out his bearings, before picking up a short black cane and leaving the room.

Deng Deng!

The black horse carriage flew rapidly across the street and, after seeing the insignia of the City Lord Castle; the citizens avoided it and made way. They all sent respectful and envious gazes to the horse carriage.

In the cabin, there was only Leylin. Currently, this youth was lying comfortably against a velvety goose feather cushion. His hand laid on its side, revealing a strange pendant on his palm.

The pendant was strikingly similar to the silver cross. On its surface were a few red and blue diamonds, which glittered in the light, giving off a faint glow.

As Leylin stared at this pendant, a satisfied expression crossed his face.

“According to the A.I. Chip’s calculations, with the Stellar Alloy as the centerpiece and the support of various precious alloys that I have obtained during my travels, this prototype of the Magic Artifact has already been perfectly synthesized.”

This pendant artifact was something that Leylin had synthesized according to the Magic Artifact section of the Lowian Academy Teachings.

3 years ago Leylin had managed to buy the decrepit page of the Lowian Academy Teachings, having the A.I. Chip slowly decipher the contents within.

The earlier portions of the teachings were only suitable for acolytes, with many travels and adventures recorded down. If not, Leylin could never have purchased the page at an extremely low price.

Leylin’s luck was not bad. After the A.I. Chip finished deciphering, he obtained a method to synthesize a low-grade Magic Artifact.

Fallen Star Pendant – This was the name of the Magic Artifact recipe he had obtained. According to the Lowian Academy Teachings, this Fallen Star Pendant, while a low-grade Magic Artifact, was of the rare defensive nature. Compared to a few attack type Magic Artifacts, its value was naturally much higher. Even an official Magus might be interested in it.

After having to see the materials needed and the process, Leylin had immediately decided that he had to synthesize the Fallen Star Pendant.

Although the spells of acolytes are rather destructive, their low defense capabilities have always been an issue.

Only by turning into an official Magus, and being able to form an innate defensive spell, can there be a spell projecting a force field that constantly protected the body. Only then, could someone be considered to be an awe-inspiring Magus.

As for acolytes, they could lose their lives at any time from sneak attacks.

The few acolytes who had entered the withering woods with Leylin previously were the best examples of this case.

Although they were able to cast destructive spells, due to the Great Mankestre Snake, they had all perished due to the lack of defensive spells. Only Murphy was fortunate enough to stay alive, but that was due to Leylin saving him.

Once he had synthesized the Fallen Star Pendant, coupled with a couple of defensive potions, Leylin's defence would be comparable to a fraction of the defence that a Magus had.

Furthermore, the Fallen Star Pendant's defence force field would be activated immediately. For instance, as long as the opponent's attack power does not exceed the threshold of the Fallen Star Pendant and before it's energy was completely depleted, Leylin's defence would be like that of a sturdy turtle shell. As long as the Fallen Star Pendant was active, nothing would happen to Leylin.

“Fortunately, there was a magician market near Extreme Night City, if

not I wouldn't have been able to find so many precious ingredients so quickly!"

Leylin somehow felt glad for that.

After smashing and grinding most of the Magic Crystals he had, as well as adding all of the ingredients from the Great Mankestre Snake, he managed to create this prototype of a pendant.

"I have basically consumed all of my expendable resources. According to the Lowian Academy Teachings, this is only an incomplete product. The core of the Fallen Star Pendant has already been completed. What's left is the final step...."

Glancing at the Fallen Star Pendant in his hands he saw that the silver cross glittered and glowed with a wide range of different hues. On its surface were inscribed mysterious patterns, and altogether it seemed like a mystical art piece.

"As for the final ingredient, I have it with me already. I need to only wait for the opportune moment before I can initiate the spirit awakening for the Fallen Star Pendant!"

Leylin gripped the Fallen Star Pendant tightly and kept it on his shirt.

"As for the Tears of Mary, this ancient formula is really difficult to comprehend. Even after a lot of experiments and obtaining large amounts of data on spirit bodies, I still don't understand anything from looking at this formula!"

Leylin appeared downcast, and his thoughts spun rapidly, "Could it be that my conjecture is wrong? What if this formula has nothing to do with spirit bodies...."

"Halt!" The coachman's voice travelled from the front. The horse carriage jerked, as it came to a stop.

"Sir Leylin! The City Lord's Castle is just ahead," reported the coachmen, respectfully.

Leylin shook his head and organized his inner thoughts as he walked out

of the carriage's door.

The City Lord's Castle was still the same – just as imposing and dignified as before. Rows of guards on both sides of the entrance were standing facing each other, and their gaze never wavered, appearing formidable.

“Viscount Jackson is rather intelligent!” Ever since the withering woods incident, he had pretended to be heavily injured and allowed the news to travel out. After his enemies confirmed the news and began to gather in cahoots for an attack, he caught them all at once lightning quick. He cut off all of their heads and their blood overflowed into the moat. From then on, all of Extreme Night City has been extremely quiet....”

“Leylin! My brother!”

Viscount Jackson had long since waited at the main door. Upon seeing Leylin, he immediately went forward to receive him.

Viscount Jackson had witnessed Leylin's strength first hand. Not to mention that Leylin was Viscount Jackson's lifesaver. If not for Leylin, Viscount Jackson would have long since become prey for the Great Mankestre Snake.”

“City Lord,” said Leylin, as he nodded his head.

Viscount Jackson grabbed Leylin's hands in a cordial manner. After bringing Leylin for a stroll around his castle's garden, he then brought Leylin to a private study room.

Within the privacy of the castle, Viscount Jackson finally revealed a worrisome expression.

“My brother Leylin! Last time you had requested for 50 men, but I am simply unable to provide you with that many.... I have already sent all the criminals from all of my jails to your place. Also, I have even sent you cheats and thieves whose crimes do not warrant a death sentence. However, it is still too far from the number you requested....”

“It was like this?” Leylin nodded his head, and sat on the sofa, entering into deep thought.

Extreme Night City could barely be considered as a medium-sized city. Their residents would not exceed 100,000 people. For Viscount Jackson, providing Leylin with a few prisoners meant for the death row was still within his means. However, as time passed, the number of death row criminals became less and less, yet Leylin's request only kept increasing. So now, he could no longer fulfill the requests of Leylin.

"As you know," continued Viscount Jackson while Leylin was in deep thought, "I am only a City Lord. My noble status is only that of a Viscount. For individual death sentences, I may still be able to decide on them. However, once it exceeds a certain threshold, I have no choice in the matter. After all, there are still laws presiding over the dukedom...."

Viscount Jackson waved his hands, and his eyes flashed, "Unless there is a war happening at the moment, if 50 or 100 people disappeared at once, it would definitely incite the wrath of the masses!"

"War!!!"

Leylin was startled, but very soon his startled appearance turned into a frosty smirk. This was indeed a good chance to collect samples.

However, Viscount Jackson chose to mention it at this time, so it was very likely that he had already thought of a plan.

"Regarding this, I..." As Leylin wanted to speak further on the matter, his chest pocket suddenly vibrated as a crow-like 'caw' sounded. Immediately Leylin's expression changed.

"Is there something wrong?" Viscount Jackson asked with a 'concerned' look.

"It's.... It's nothing; I've received news from a friend!" Leylin reached his hands into his chest, and the cawing stopped immediately. His countenance also resumed its previous tranquility.

However, Leylin lost interest in speaking any further. He hurriedly exchanged a few more words with Viscount Jackson before bidding farewell.

Although something was troubling Viscount Jackson, seeing Leylin, who

became absent-minded towards the end, he still did not say what was on his mind.

After Leylin came out of the castle, he hopped onto the horse carriage and rushed back to the manor.

“I actually received news from the academy at a time like this” According to the news, the war of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had already reached the peak of its intensity, where the victor and loser could be determined at any given moment.

As Leylin was an acolyte who was sent out on a mission, the academy had given him items with which they could contact him. There were also various items for contact purposes, with a ‘single-use’ effect, sent with him. This way, they were able to get the most updated news of the school during critical times.

“Right now, the news given would most likely determine the winner and loser. The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s strength is limited, and there are two other factions of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s strength opposing it, so the chances of winning are slim,” mused Leylin, as he had a good grasp of the current predicament of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

“Unless some external faction has stepped forward to mediate, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy will definitely take a huge loss this time, and may even result in being disbanded....”

Leylin carried a solemn expression as he stepped into his secret lab.

Chapter 78: Arrangements

The shadow of a mahogany circular table could be seen under the dim glow of the lantern.

The four legs were elongated in the projection and when projected on the walls, it looked like a beast with four limbs, making it seem ominous.

Leylin stood in front of the table, and his shadow, too, was elongated.

A bunch of black scrolls were placed on the mahogany wood table. On the surface of each of the scrolls was a picture of a crow. At this moment, the crow seemed to have come alive and cawed continuously, giving off a noise that would terrify people.

“No matter what, I have to look at the contents within!”

Leylin made up his mind, “Even if it was a trap, which contains some sort of tracing spell inside, I still have enough time to escape!”

Even if that was the case, Leylin still gripped the Trevor’s Revolving Shield Potion – that he had just brewed – tightly in his hands.

After which, with a solemn voice, Leylin spoke in the Byron language, “Open in the name of Leylin Farlier!”

Caw Caw Caw! The black crow cried, and its figure twisted. Many black lines converged, forming the image of a black skull.

Leylin picked a red crystal from his robes and tossed it into the skull’s mouth.

Crunch! Crunch! The black skull immediately flew out from the paper and devoured the red crystal.

Puff! After finishing its meal, the black skull exploded, and the scroll shuddered violently. It started to burn at the bottom, where a green-coloured flame was seen.

The greenish flame then formed many characters in mid-air.

Leylin’s eyes shifted. These green characters were a kind of secret code, which outsiders would not understand. But he has learnt its corresponding

encryption and decryption back at Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

Under the green-coloured characters was a bright red stamp, with a distinguished name written below it in the Byron language. There even was an image of a black snake which crawled out from a skull.

“Even the chairman’s seal has appeared -- it seems like this news is not a fake!”

Leylin’s expression became volatile upon seeing the fluctuating characters.

Some time later, after the flame finished burning, the green characters disappeared into the air, leaving behind a pile of grey ashes.

Leylin sighed and furrowed his brows.

“They actually sent the highest order -- asking all acolytes, who are working on missions outside, to rush back to the academy immediately!”

“Furthermore, they have also set severe punishments. Those who do not make it back to the academy within 3 months, will immediately be labelled as a traitor, and be subjected to the academy’s disciplinary team’s execution!”

“I’m afraid that I have to go back this time!” Leylin muttered.

As to whether it was a trap set by an enemy, Leylin was not at all worried.

First of all, Leylin was only a lowly acolyte. The enemy would not go through such painstaking means for him. Also, the chairman of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was a legendary figure. He was, at the least, a Rank 2 Magus. Even if Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was defeated, his personal seal would never land in the hands of the enemy.

“Abyssal Bone Forest Academy” Leylin sighed and thought of Kroft, Bicky, Nyssa and the rest, wondering how they have been.

Previously when Leylin made a hasty decision to leave, it was indeed rather selfish of him. However, his strength was not even likened to that of an ant in front of the two academies, so he could not think of a better

way.

“I’d never imagined that after 3 years, I will finally be returning!”

Leylin suddenly ordered, “A.I. Chip, bring forth my stats now!”

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.7, Spiritual Force: 13.1, Magical Power: 13 - (Magical Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

More than a year had passed, and the modified Azure Potion, even for a Level 3 Acolyte, had a very beneficial effect. It managed to bring Leylin’s Spiritual Force up by another 3 points.

His body’s resistance towards the medicine, however, had now reached its limits. Drinking more of the Azure Potion would no longer have any effect.

Raising his Spiritual Force for the next few years would be impossible for Leylin unless he were to concoct a new type of Spiritual Force medicine.

“After Level 3 Acolyte, it will be the realm of an official Magus!” Leylin muttered, “Advancing from Level 3 Acolyte to official Magus, there will be a huge bottleneck. The difficulty is much higher than that of advancing from a Level 2 to Level 3 Acolyte.”

It seemed like all of the factions in the Magus World deliberately controlled the information regarding of official Magus. Even if Leylin were to fork out huge amounts of Magic Crystals, he would not be able to retrieve much.

The previous, harrowing incident of advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte suddenly surfaced on Leylin’s mind.

“The higher ups in the Magus World have strictly kept the information regarding Magus advancement highly confidential. No matter how genius a wandering magician may be, as long as they don’t join a faction, they will never be able to obtain knowledge of advancing. This is to keep the lowest tier from resisting and creating a rebellion and to maintain the ruling.

Leylin, too, had experienced the evil consequences of advancing without prior knowledge. If not for the A.I. Chip, he would have died without even leaving behind a corpse.

“Abyssal Bone Forest Academy! I have to return once and obtain knowledge of advancing into an official Magus.

This was the only place where Leylin knew he could obtain information more easily. As for markets and whatnot, they were completely not worth considering.

The path of a Magus would be covered with thorns. One misstep would result in an irreversible consequence.

Last time, Leylin took a risk and advanced to the Level 3 Acolyte, but because of the lack of guidance from the academy and his mentor, he could only rely on the A.I. Chip to simulate. In the end, he met with two unexpected situations. If not for the A.I. Chip’s immense capabilities, coupled with a little luck, Leylin would never have been able to advance that easily, and that too without any side effects.

“Only that...I have to reconsider the arrangements for my subordinates!”

Leylin stroked his chin, “Maybe, arranging for a backup plan here won’t be a bad idea after all”

“Give out the orders, I wish to join the subordinates for tonight’s dinner!”

After exiting the secret lab, Leylin instructed Anna.

“Yes, Young Master!” Leylin was on the solitary side, and he usually left the daily chores and trifle things to Anna, Greem and the others, while he holed himself up in the experiment lab all day. He also rarely left the manor, so giving out an order suddenly did startle Anna. However, she was a quick-witted woman, so she did not ask much. After curtsying, she retreated while displaying her beautiful curves in front of Leylin.

In the manor, naturally there were halls large enough which could accommodate the master to have a meal with his subordinates.

The hall was constructed with large red rocks, the windowsill was rather small, and the sunlight could only dimly light up the place. However, at the centre, a silver rack with hundreds of candles lit solved that problem completely.

In the centre of the large hall, a long red table was placed. The attendants and kitchen staff were shifting the huge chairs with backrest, which caused squeaky noises. They also laid a thick, white cloth on the table, and arranged silver forks and spoons, plates and other cutleries.

When it was time to eat, the table was already filled with many delicacies. At the centre was a barbecued mutton. Around the golden yellow barbecue meat, there were many purple and red fruits. It complemented the combination of dishes and was a tantalising display.

Leylin immediately sat at the most respected position and looked at the group in front of him.

Immediately, to the left and right sides of Leylin, were Fraser and Greem respectively. As Knights and subordinates who had followed Leylin from the earliest, their positions were naturally of the highest. After them were housekeeper Old Welker and Roran Hawks Mercenary Group's leader, Fayern.

As for Anna, she awaited behind Leylin silently, like a dutiful serving maid. However, all the people present did not dare think that her status was just that of a maid.

Everyone knew that Anna was exceptionally favoured by this Young Master. Not only could she see Leylin regularly, but she even held the key to the gold vault! It incited a few, feeble grumbles from Old Welker, but Leylin did not care.

After Leylin had purchased the land here, Fayern had moved his whole family over, and turned into a truthfully loyal subordinate of Leylin.

After which it was Roran Hawks Mercenary Group. The contract with them matured not long ago. Half of the mercenaries continued to stay on under the generous conditions that Leylin had provided.

Many others sat on the long table, but Leylin was only familiar with these few. The others merely looked familiar to Leylin, but Leylin knew of their faces and names, which he could remember by relying on the A.I. Chip.

Leylin never bothered about the trifles of regular livelihood. The pathway to being a Magus already expended a huge amount of his concentration. He absolutely could not allocate any of his concentration on other matters.

Of course, Leylin's outward mannerisms were similar to that of many magicians. It also fit with how regular humans expected from magicians.

In the hearts of all the people on the South Coast, magicians were a group of people who wielded mysterious powers, but they were extremely solitary. They often resided in dark woods or concealed marshes. Only when they needed ingredients and other items, would they leave their dwelling.

"Young Master!"

The masses around the long table stood up and bowed.

Ding! Leylin used the silver spoon and tapped on the glass in front of him, giving off a crisp noise.

"Everyone! By calling you all out here today, is because I have something to announce to everyone!" Leylin's eyes swept the crowd. As of now, his Spiritual Force had already reached 13.1, and the mysterious gaze of his eyes was awe-inspiring; it was as if his eyes had been chiseled from the highest grade jewels. Anyone who was looked at by him would experience a sharp pain in their eyes, and tears would involuntarily leak out.

Even if it was Greem or Fraser, they could only bow their heads low at this moment.

"Please give your orders, Young Master!"

"I will leave for a period of time, and there will be no set date on returning. When I am not around, the medicinal shop and daily matters of the manor would all be decided by Anna, Greem and Fraser."

Leylin looked at the masses below him and said slowly.

“What?” A bout of commotion sparked, and immediately the group whispered fervently to each other, as they used strange gazes to look at the trio of Anna, Greem and Fraser.

Greem and Fraser could tolerate being the focus of numerous eyes. However, as a woman, Anna was somewhat uneasy as she twisted and clutched at her dress.

“Silence!” Leylin knocked on the silver glass again, and the crowd turned silent.

“From today onwards, the words from those 3 would be the same as mine. Any decision of theirs must be completely obeyed and carried out by you.”

“We obey!” Although Leylin did not usually bother himself with many matters, the imposing aura coming from him was extremely immense. There were also rumours flying around that he was part of the Mysterious Entity, which made his subordinates’ reverence towards him even greater.

Chapter 79: Tidying Up

“Anna, Greem, Fraser, you three come to my study room together after dinner!”

Seeing that his subordinates did not have any objections, Leylin nodded his head and said, “For now, everyone please enjoy yourself!”

The group nodded their heads, returned to their positions, and sat down. The sound of clanging cutlery continuously rang.

Ever since Leylin had issued his orders, the hall was much more silent than before. Although the dinner was sumptuous, the masses seemed to have something weighing down on their hearts.

After dinner, Leylin received the trio which knew of his magician identity.

Greem and Fraser wore leather armour, which looked extremely imposing. Anna still wore a low cut blouse, and appeared even more seductive.

“You guys know that I am a magician. Right now, I am about to embark on a journey, and due to some reasons, I can only keep you guys here....”

Leylin sat behind the desk, speaking solemnly to the three of them.

“The orders outside earlier were only for the others to see. From now onwards, Greem and Fraser, you must treat Anna the same way you treat me, do you understand?”

“We understand!” Greem and Fraser nodded their heads. Compared to the rest, they knew how terrifying this master of theirs was and had no objections towards Leylin’s orders.

After sending Greem and Fraser away, the room was only left with Anna and Leylin.

“Young...Young Master!” Tears welled up in Anna’s eyes.

“The Mandara Flower’s essence on your body, I have already created an antidote for it. Also, take these!” Towards his own women, Leylin was

much gentler.

Saying so, Leylin handed over some potions and a parchment paper over to Anna.

“This is....” Anna opened the parchment paper to have a look, and she became startled.

“These are letters of authority. You will be managing all of my establishments in Extreme Night City. Furthermore, if I don’t return within ten years, all of these will be transferred over to your name!”

Leylin crossed his fingers, “Furthermore, Murphy and Viscount Jackson are witnesses to these procedures! If you meet with any trouble in the future, you can seek their aid!”

These worldly possessions, Leylin could have as many as he wanted. Naturally he would not mind giving them to Anna as a backup plan for himself.

Moreover, even if he played this chess piece wrongly, there wasn’t much to be regretful about.

After all, right now, Leylin was only an acolyte in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. According to the academy’s rules, acolytes are not allowed to bring their followers or maids into the academy compounds.

Since these are things which he had to eventually let go of, naturally, Leylin’s heart did not ache for them.

“Also, this is the desert scorpion sting, which is a tool specially used to control Greem and Fraser. You must keep them well....”

Leylin handed over a red box to Anna.

“No!” Anna bit her lips, before finally pouncing forward and hugging both of Leylin’s legs. “Young Master, don’t chase Anna away! Anna wants to be by Young Master’s side no matter what she has to do, alright?”

The young lady held onto Leylin’s legs and tears as bright as pearls slid off of her beautiful face.

Her warm and mildly shuddering body wrapped itself around Leylin’s

legs. One could see that Anna had mustered extreme courage to speak these words.

Leylin looked at Anna with a touch of gentleness in his eyes. He reached his right hand out and stroked the young lady's hair and back.

"I'm very sorry Anna. The place I have to go is extremely dangerous for you...."

"But...." Anna lifted her face filled with tears as if wanting to say something else.

"Don't mess around, listen!" Suddenly, Leylin's face hardened.

Seeing her master act this way, the deeply ingrained pain and suffering for disobeying a master's orders surfaced in her mind. After all, Anna had undergone slave training. Although these were the methods of the slave traders, it was etched right into Anna's soul itself.

"Yes, Young Master!" Anna stopped her crying and kept the scroll and box. She only looked at Leylin, the same way as a cat that had been abandoned by its owner.

Seeing the girl act like this, Leylin withdrew a few potions from his robes and handed it to her. After all, he was not a stone-hearted person.

"This is a recovery potion, which can quickly heal physical wounds. Keep this well!"

"Also, this purple potion is an attack type potion. If there comes a day when you encounter a danger that not even Greem nor Fraser can handle, throw this out at it. Do you understand me?"

Leylin pointed at the purple potion and instructed Anna.

"Anna understands!" Her eyes turned red. She knew that she could not disobey her master's orders, so she kept the potion well.

"Sigh...."

Looking at her leaving figure, Leylin sighed suddenly.

Although he had made many preparations, he knew that after a dozen

odd years, this faction that he had left would most lightly disappear into thin air.

However, he had no regrets. These were all regular humans without any aptitude for becoming a magician. They would be of limited use to him in the future.

Most likely, the only use of this small faction to him would be to act as a cover for him to hide from people, and even then, it wasn't very secure at all.

In the end, entrusting everything to Anna was not a bad choice.

Apart from the Mandara Flower's essence on Anna's body, all other restrictions on Anna's body had already been removed by Leylin. From now onward, Anna would be a free human.

"I hope that after having these things, you will be able to live a happier life!"

Leylin's eyes were unreadable.

If Anna was to land in the hands of another magician, she would at most be a tool for them to vent their pent up energy. After their interest wanes, she may very well be used in an experiment. Now that Anna had followed Leylin, not only was she free from her status as a slave, Leylin had even saved her from the poison of Mandara Flower's essence. He had even given her the manor and medicinal shop, so no matter what happens next, he would be free from all guilt!"

"The troublesome matters have all been resolved. What's left is to finally dispose of the experiment lab and underground cells thoroughly!"

Leylin thought and got up to go to the underground.

This was the forbidden area that he had demarcated. Anna and the two Knights would not dare come down here so easily.

Under the dim light from the torch, Leylin withdrew a crystal ball. An old person's figure could be seen within it. His expression was crazed, and even had terror in it.

“We meet again, Mister Roman!” Leylin smiled and gave his salutations. However, in Roman’s eyes, this smile was more harrowing than the devil’s.

“Don’t... Don’t come over!” Roman’s expression twisted, and he fearfully backed up to the walls of the crystal ball behind him.

However, Leylin’s acute senses picked out the resolution behind the expression of the frightened vengeful spirit.

“Let me tell you a piece of good news, and a piece of bad news!”

Leylin proficiently placed many tools beside the crystal ball, and let the vengeful spirit let out ear piercing screams as he spoke.

“The good news is that I am going to leave here for a while!” Before the vengeful spirit had any response, Leylin smiled and said, “And the bad news is that no matter where I go, you will be going along with me!”

“Oh! No! No! I beg of you....”

“Alright! So then, tell me everything you know!”

At the beginning, Roman naturally would not speak of anything. However after over a year of torture, he had already begun to cough out some information.

After the narration of the vengeful spirit, Leylin shook his head. “It seems like Mister Roman still harbours wishful thoughts, so let us continue....”

Following Leylin’s statement, many hair-raising screams filled the lab, as if the howls of a person right before their death.

Although this vengeful spirit had showed signs of a mental breakdown half a month ago, it still managed to give misleading information to Leylin regarding the secrets he knew.

This vengeful spirit gave much information at once, and it was extremely complicated. However, with the A.I. Chip, Leylin was able to record all of its narration quickly, and sort it systematically.

The next few times, he discovered a problem.

Towards things which are pertaining to more general and common knowledge, Roman always handed them over easily. However, towards the crucial points and secrets, Roman glossed over them and hid much of the important information.

However, Leylin did not mind at all. It would give huge amounts of information each day. Along with the filtering and sorting of the A.I. Chip, he would still obtain plenty of information.

Moreover, with the continuous and prolonged torture and interrogating, Leylin believed that one day, this vengeful spirit would tell him everything, and pray for a fast death.

After the daily routine of 'questioning' was completed, Leylin went towards the other rooms underground.

In here, various blood-stained torture instruments were hung along the walls. On the floor, there were even a few corpses with wounds littered across their bodies, causing them to be almost indiscernible as a human body.

[Beep! The surrounding negative energy density is higher by 34.5%, which satisfies the most basic condition for a spirit body's existence. The target's physical body has undergone various suffering and tortures. Chance of spirit body appearing: 1.23%]

The A.I. Chip scanned the few corpses and reported the figures.

"Compared to the one-thousandth chance of a spirit body forming naturally, this proportion can be considered extremely high already!" Leylin stroked his chin, "If I were to be given more time, I would definitely be able to induce the formation of an artificial spirit body!"

The most efficient way to do research on souls was through the use of spirit bodies. This established theory was publicly accepted by all Dark Magi.

What Leylin had to do now was to continuously simulate the conditions of the outside world, and induce the forming of an artificial spirit body!

If this piece of news were to leak out, Leylin's reputation would be

completely interlinked with savagery and ruthlessness, which would be bad for his future developments.

“Reputation is also a kind of benefit! Although I’m not afraid of how people view me, even Magi wish to have dealings with those who have good reputations, but not a fellow with a dredged reputation.

Leylin sucked in a lungful of air and sprinkled power on the corpses.

With hissing sounds, the corpses turned into yellow pus after corroding, and very soon, they disappeared.

“Although I have finally stopped my experiments, which is a little bit of a pity, it’s not like I haven’t obtained any results!” Leylin comforted himself, “At least, regarding the Lowian Academy Teachings’ final step, the spirit awakening, I have already obtained sufficient data!”

As for the other ancient potion formula, Tears of Mary, Leylin still hadn’t found any clues regarding it.

Chapter 80: Return

Within Extreme Night City, there was recently a matter that was neither big nor small happening. This turned into an idle conversation topic discussed by commoners after lunch tea.

Mister Leylin, an heir of a noble who had stayed in the city for three years and Viscount Jackson and Scholar Murphy's good friend, was temporarily leaving Extreme Night City.

Before he left, he actually handed over the manor and medicinal shop to his serving attendant, a maid, to handle the running.

For nobles, although they did vent their pent up energy on their serving maids frequently, they would never have handed over important establishments and such over to them because of this act.

After all, to them, maids were like toys, which could be changed or abandoned at any time. As for establishments and lands, they would often become the inheritance of an heir, and was the root for the growth of a family's continual development.

By doing this, Leylin had turned into a joke in front of the rest of the nobility. Not only did his reputation contain a lazy and kind person, it also extended to a muddle-headed trademark.

However, to the surprise of many, the maid, with the help of two Knights, very soon made the remainder of Leylin's faction submit to her. At the same time, Viscount Jackson City Lord and Murphy stepped in personally to express their support for the maid, which allowed her to act on Leylin's behalf with his establishments.

After taking over Leylin's establishments, Anna dedicated herself to managing them and did it neatly and tidily. Not only did Leylin's establishment in Extreme Night City not fail as predicted by the other nobles, it continually developed, which made many nobles fall from their chair.

However, all of these things had nothing to do with Leylin. At this

moment, he had long since left Extreme Night City.

Pitter Patter!

The sky turned dark, and bean sized drops of rain fell on the ground, initiating countless splashes.

Thud Thud Thud! A dark, handsome steed continually dashed along the road, and the scenery on both sides hurriedly retreated. Rainwater fell onto the body of a Knight, but was blocked by a raincoat.

By the time when it was midnight, the downpour stopped, and the Knight sought shelter in a cave.

A warm and bright flame illuminated the cave. A steel wok hung above the bonfire, and a white mushroom broth with a fragrant smell boiled. From time to time, a few pieces of meat jerky floated to the surface.

The Knight took off his coat, revealing a young face with brown hair and eyes that glittered like jewels.

This person was Leylin. At this moment, he drank the mushroom soup, while time bringing out a map from the A.I. Chip.

“After two months of continuous journeying, I am finally going to arrive at the academy!”

Leylin looked at the destination on the map. His expression was complicated. Previously, if not for him constantly changing his route and going to other markets to sell his potions, he wouldn't have been in such a rush, and the journey would have been a breeze.

However, with such a hastened journey, he had suffered plenty.

After having lived like a king for the past 3 years, Leylin had gotten used to the extravagant life of a noble, and almost could not adapt to his current situation.

“However, I have finally arrived. According to the map, I will arrive at the academy after three more days!”

“I never thought that a third party would actually intervene, and make the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the other two factions come to a

ceasefire agreement!”

Recalling the news that he heard from the markets in the past few days, Leylin was still somewhat in disbelief.

According to the news, with the pincer attack from the Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy should have been in a precarious situation. Even the academy headquarters’ defensive spell formation was damaged by half and was almost broken.

However, in the end, it was unknown what method the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy chairman used. He had actually managed to appeal for help from the Lighthouse of the Night.

The Lighthouse of the Night was one of the finest organisations in the South Coast. Its leader was rumoured to have the strength of a Rank 3 Magus.

Under the forceful mediation of the Lighthouse of the Night, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy finally managed to escape from its dangerous situation, eventually reaching a treaty between the two rivaling factions.

Leylin was not someone who would immediately respond when he was requested to return to the academy. Along the way, he always inquired for news. Only when he was indeed certain that Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was freed from war, and that the recalling of the acolytes was not a trap, did he decide to return to the academy.

“With this distance, I can already initiate the communicative method that mentor showed me before! It’s best to first discern the truth!”

Leylin’s face turned serious, and he withdrew a pink coloured potion from his robes.

After removing the plug, he used the pink coloured potion to draw a mysterious rune on the ground. It was cursive and winding, like a worm.

Sssii! Pink smoke rose into the air continuously, before finally turning into the shape of a large pink ear.

“Who is this? This energy wave?” Beside the ear, Kroft’s voice sounded,

carrying many other static noises with it.

“It’s me! Professor!” Leylin spoke softly.

“This voice! These Spiritual Force waves! You are Leylin! You have actually become a Level 3 Acolyte!” Astonishment could be heard in Kroft’s voice.

For third grade acolytes, if they wanted to advance from a Level 2 Acolyte to a Level 3 Acolyte, it often required at least 5 years of constructing the mind runes and reinforcing of the sea of consciousness.

However, Leylin had spent only 3 years to advance to a Level 3 Acolyte, which shocked Kroft.

“You are only 17 this year, yet you have entered the realm of a Level 3 Acolyte!” Kroft’s voice, which was usually stable, carried a trace of excitement in it, “An acolyte who is Level 3 before the age of 20 often has an extremely huge chance of advancing to an official Magus. However, the numbers of such acolytes are extremely rare. Even your senior, Merlin, only advanced to a Level 3 Acolyte when he was 21.

If Kroft knew that Leylin had advanced to a Level 3 Acolyte only 1 year after he had left the academy, he might immediately label him as a genius!

However, striking it rich silently was always Leylin’s norm of handling his affairs. Towards his mentor’s astonishment, Leylin only bowed and said, “I was only lucky, and found a rare Void Flower”

A Void Flower was a type of mysterious plant. Its petals were purple, and if a magician were to raise it, it would be an extremely strong stimulant towards a magician’s Spiritual Force. The most crucial point was that the laws of reproduction for the Void Flower were strange. they could appear at any place on the continent. There were even cases in which magicians found traces of these plants at the bottom of the sea or in a pit of a volcano.

Moreover, the Void Flower had a special attribute. Once its petals were plucked, the whole stalk will immediately combust, leaving no traces behind.

Naturally, this was an excuse that Leylin thought of long ago. Through the A.I. Chip's data gathering of various mysterious plants, he had already prepared this excuse as a reason for his advancement.

It was not like there weren't any other Level 2 Acolytes who had used a Void Flower to advance to a Level 3 Acolyte before.

"Void Flower?" Kroft's shock was relayed through the ear. "Such a precious magician resource could also be found by you... That is a top grade material of which one petal can cost several thousands of Magic Crystals.... It can even aid a magician in advancing...."

However, it was extremely difficult to predict luck in this world. After sticking to his statement that the Void Flower was indeed used up, Kroft had no other choice but to believe him.

What followed next was that the mentor and student spoke of Leylin's recent journeying experiences. When Kroft learned that Leylin had successfully completed the mission from the academy, he expressed his congratulations.

Towards the end, Leylin asked in a solemn tone, "Professor, regarding the recalling of the acolytes to the academy...."

Why he did not ask the academy directly was, naturally, because he was afraid that it would be a trap. It may have very well been that the chairman of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had some other plans, and might be prepared to sacrifice a bunch of acolytes.

"...." Kroft remained silent on the other side of the communication spell, before finally speaking again some time later.

"The recall of acolytes, this time, had indeed been approved by the chairman and board of directors. I can assure you that there is no lie in the recall, but...."

Leylin hesitated and held his breath, afraid to disturb his mentor.

"Originally, if you were still a Level 2 Acolyte, I would most likely have not approved of you returning to the academy. However, now that you are a Level 3 Acolyte, things are different. Let me ask you, do you wish to

advance to an official Magus?”

Kroft asked suddenly.

“A Rank 1 Magus. It is often the starting point for a Magus who pursues the truth. I definitely want to advance!” Leylin’s voice was low.

“If that is the case, then come back! When you’re here, I’ll tell you everything! There isn’t much time now....” The pink ear shuddered and exploded immediately, turning into a huge cloud of smoke as it dissipated into the air.

In the empty cave, Kroft’s voice finally resounded one last time, “Heed my words! This opportunity is extremely rare but is also accompanied by danger. If you wish to walk further down the path of a Magus, then hurry back!”

Leylin looked at the gradually disappearing smoke and muttered to himself.

Through the long distance communication with Kroft today, although time was short, Leylin was able to understand the circumstances within the academy.

From this, he knew that the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had indeed extricated itself from danger but the war seemed to still be ongoing. This was why the academy forcefully recalled its acolytes back.

Moreover, opportunities often came hand in hand with risks. Looking at Kroft’s opinion, it seemed that plenty of opportunities would await him if he returned. It even related to the advancement that Leylin would have to undergo in the future.

“An official Magus!”

Leylin walked towards the entrance of the cave, and looked at the downcast sky and pitter-patter sounds of the downpour, letting out a sigh.

These few days, apart from making haste, he did nothing else but to go to a few magician markets to have a look. However, no matter how many Magic Crystals he was willing to part with, the market never contained

any information pertaining to the advancement of an official Magus. Moreover, no one even sold a method of obtaining such information.

Looking at it, it seemed as though a large, invisible hand had directly hauled all of the information regarding official Magi away, not letting anyone else know of it.

“To be able to monopolise the information to such an extent, it must be supported by, at least, a majority of magicians within the large organisations and factions in the South Coast....”

Chapter 81: Granite Ape

Leylin's gaze seemed distant as if sparks of wisdom radiated from it.

“For the Magi of the upper echelons, under the circumstances where they are unable to advance any further, their only concern is the protection and prosperity of their own family and factions!”

“For that, they monopolised the knowledge of advancing to a Magus, isolating wandering magicians and halting their advancement. Moreover, even the academy has strictly regulated the information given for an acolyte to advance into a Level 3 Acolyte. . . ”

Leylin, who came from another world, naturally saw through these methods of sealing away information.

However, compared to those high and mighty Magi, Leylin was currently but an ant. Even if he saw through it, there was no way that he could resist it.

After all, Leylin was only a Level 3 Acolyte, and not even an official Magus!

“There is definitely information in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy regarding the experience of advancement to a Rank 1 Magus, but I'm afraid it's not something that I can obtain easily! It's a pity, but this is already the most probable situation I can think of....”

Leylin looked at the distant raindrops, sinking into deep thoughts.

After the harrowing experience of advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte, Leylin was rather traumatic over the incident. Before making preparations fully and obtaining enough information, he would definitely not dare to breakthrough into an official Magus.

For magicians, the step to become an official Magus, from an acolyte, was the most crucial step, and no mistakes could be allowed.

Leylin was, however, unable to discover any information pertaining to this. Furthermore, to obtain this information, he could only plan to seize it from an official Magus.

However, the strength of official Magi far exceeded that of a Level 3 Acolyte. Not to mention that the defensive force field surrounding the official Magi which the A.I. Chip had detected. Leylin had no means, even now, to break through it. The difficulty of obtaining information on advancement from an official Magus had long surpassed Leylin's limits. Only if Leylin was mad would he proceed with it.

As for what Leylin knew, obtaining information on the advancement was the most appropriate method.

"According to the news that Kroft had hinted at earlier, although it might be rather dangerous at this time, it is also the best chance to obtain these resources and information!"

Leylin looked at the raging thunderstorm outside and suddenly steeled his heart.

Although he was someone who treasured his life dearly, in this situation where his path seemed bleak, he could only muster up courage, and take a gamble!

Right now, he was at the optimal age to advance to an official Magus. Once he missed this chance, even if he could obtain resources and information in future, it would be unlikely that his aged body would support him through the breakthrough to a Rank 1 Magus.

Moreover, it was not as though he did not have any confidence. At the very least, according to his own hypothesis and the A.I. Chip's simulations, there was, at least, a 90% chance that the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy required him to fulfill some sort of dangerous mission, and hence, would not sacrifice him! This was enough for him to take a gamble!

"I'll take a gamble this once! If I am unable to scale the absolute peak and observe the radiance from the rays of dawn, then let me be sludge and sink thoroughly into the earth, and rot!"

His eyes sparkled as he gazed intensely at the thunderstorm raging in front of him.

.....

Three days later, in the outer vicinity of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

More than half of the surrounding forests around the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had already been destroyed. The ground was filled with traces of holes and depressions. Not far away, a few patches of the ground were white in colour, and on top of it were some rubble and ashes. From these, one could surmise what kind of bitter battle the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had gone through!

“It was actually reduced to a state like this....” Leylin rode the large horse and dashed ahead, feeling absolutely gleeful that he had made an unwavering decision to leave the academy beforehand.

It had been such a massive battle that it had actually even ruined half of the geography around the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. If Leylin were to remain here, he did not have any confidence in protecting his life.

Following the path and traveling on for another dozen minutes, a huge graveyard appeared before Leylin’s eyes.

This was the underground entrance to the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, a large granite graveyard. However, right now, half of the tombstones were shattered, and many graves were also dug open, revealing the dark passages within. The surrounding stone walls and mud reflected signs having been abused by many spells. Before Leylin’s eyes, the alert of the A.I. Chip continuously sounded, revealing the extremely high radiation from some traces of these spells.

“Every little tombstone here was actually a personal passageway for each professor in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and all are now in such ruins....”

Although he long knew that the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy would definitely suffer a catastrophic loss, this miserable scene still caused Leylin to inhale a mouthful of cold ai

Bang!

Leylin casually kicked a stone on the floor, and walked towards the

centremost area of the graveyard, where a huge tombstone that looked like a castle was erected.

This was the huge entrance to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and was the common path for all acolytes.

The surface of the castle was littered with cracks, and part of the topmost area was chipped off. What remained was tottering, and seemed to be on the verge of collapse. Seeing such a sight made Leylin somewhat worried; he felt that if he were to stick a finger out and poke it, this castle of a tombstone would crumble.

“Halt! Outsider! If you are unable to show any items of proof, I will make you pay the price of blood!”

The two stone statues by the large entrance were completely destroyed. The Winged Earthworm and Two-Headed Dog from before were now gone. Right when Leylin wanted to enter, a metallic voice sounded.

Accompanying that voice, a large shadow from the peak of the ashened castle climbed down at a rapid speed. This black figure was taller by an average human by two heads, and its hands were extremely long, extending to the ground.

Although the castle tombstone was filled with cracks, no matter how this black figure climbed, the castle did not waver an inch. Obviously, the construction of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was not as weak as it seemed on the surface.

Bang! The black figure leapt, and a huge shadow was projected on the ground, completely engulfing Leylin.

Thud! The black figure pounded on the ground, bringing up a layer of dust.

Leylin squinted and finally saw the appearance of the black figure. This was a large ape-like creature. Its whole body was layered with granite, and both of its hands propped itself up on the ground.

[Beep! A creature with high levels of energy has been detected. Now comparing to database. Determined as Granite Ape!] The A.I. Chip’s voice

intoned.

Granite Ape was a creature in the Magus World with a battle strength comparable to an official Magus.

“I sense the energy waves emanating from the item of proof on your body, take it out!”

The Granite Ape looked at Leylin, and sniffed him with its large snout. As the ape approached, an extremely dense and putrid stench wafted over. Leylin had to muster up a lot of strength to endure the need to frown.

“Item of proof?”

Leylin thought for a while, before hurriedly withdrawing the red metal card from his sack that he obtained before when taking up the mission.

“So it was this!”

The Granite Ape took the metal card and swallowed it in one gulp, as if munching on some delicacy. It even closed its eyes to savour the taste of it.

“It’s an acolyte of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy who took on an outside mission previously!”

After a dozen seconds, the Granite Ape opened its large eyes and said to Leylin, “Brat, enter!”

“Please accept my offerings!” Leylin thought, and bowed before the Granite Ape, before taking a bunch of banana like fruits and placing it on the ground.

“Elephant Stout Bananas! Not bad, not bad!” The large ape nodded its head, and took one from the bunch and peeled it, before tossing it into its mouth, as if it could not wait.

“Can I ask what happened to the two guardians from before?”

Leylin asked cautiously, after seeing the Granite Ape enjoying itself.

“They’re dead!” The large ape answered concisely, and Leylin gasped silently.

This was something that he had long guessed. The two statues were

obviously the first line of defense for the academy. After being attacked, they would easily be the first to perish.

After another bow, Leylin entered through the entrance of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

The dimly lit flight of downward stairs was the same as from before, when Leylin had left the academy.

However, for some unknown reason - which may have been the fact that he was now a Level 3 Acolyte with a greater Spiritual Force - Leylin discovered that there were a few marks on the walls and stones, with some traces of blood. There were even some faint wails of spirits who had perished, which travelled to Leylin's ears.

Leylin, who had conducted a massive amount of experiments on spirit bodies, would never mistake these noises for something else.

Along the way, he noticed that he had run into far fewer acolytes than he did normally. Leylin estimated that the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy didn't even have half of its original strength. Even the Trading Post and Mission Area hotspots seemed to be devoid of people.

At the mission desk counter, Leylin handed over the records in the crystal ball and a piece of the Great Snake Mankestre's scales.

"I'm here to complete a mission!"

"Alright, please hold on!" The staff at the counter had changed too. This was a freckled girl, who seemed to only be a Level 2 Acolyte.

While he was waiting, Leylin was bored to death, and looked at his surroundings.

Although the number of people in the Mission Area had been greatly reduced, the number of missions did not reduce but increased instead. Moreover, many of them had increased rewards compared to before. According to Leylin's guess, while the difficulty of these missions had remained the same, the rewards had increased to twice of what they were originally.

This was an abnormal scene, which made Leylin's eyes flash.

"Ley...Leylin!" A muffled yet hoarse voice sounded behind Leylin.

Leylin turned around and saw a swollen figure wrapped in a black veil. Moreover, the stench of pus drifted over.

"You are... Nyssa!" Leylin's eyes widened.

Naturally he recalled this image clearly, but even if he didn't, the A.I. Chip had recorded it.

"You actually still remember me!" Nyssa's voice had a tinge of excitement. At the same time, an energy wave leaked from her body. According to the A.I. Chip, she was actually a Level 2 Acolyte.

Chapter 82: A Way To Breakthrough

Leylin's expression softened; this was one of the rare occasions that this occurred. He still remembered this unfortunate girl and the grief and perseverance on this girl's face before.

"It's really great to see you again, how are Guricha and Dodoria?"

Leylin smiled.

Hearing this, Nyssa who was wrapped in the black cloak shuddered, and her voice was gloomy as she said, "They're all dead. Even Kaliweir, Beirut, the ones who came with us from the Chernobyl Islands, more than half of them perished...."

"My apologies...."

Leylin did not know what he ought to say. Although he did divulge a bit of information previously, it was extremely obscure. Whether or not Kaliweir and the rest could figure it out, and if they could view it solemnly were all matters of uncertainty.

Moreover, even if they discovered that something was amiss, they were only first or second grade acolytes without much aptitude. Whether or not they could obtain discriminating treatment from the academy and leave was also difficult to say.

As expected, Nyssa continued, "After getting news from you, we'd came together several times. However, there were no good measures. Not long later, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy announced a lockdown of the whole academy, otherwise, death would be granted... Afterwards, the war began...."

Official Magi were the core strength of the war between both sides. Kaliweir, together with the others who weren't even Level 3 Acolytes were not fit to be cannon fodder, so heavy casualties were to be expected.

Leylin could not think of any consoling words. Nyssa too did not continue, and silence ensued.

"Mission recorded and confirmed as completed! This is your reward,

please check and accept!”

At this moment, the freckled girl from behind the counter had finally raised her head, and scribbled on a piece of parchment paper with a feather quill, finally handing over a small leather sack to Leylin.

Leylin weighed the sack, and rubbing noises between Magic Crystals came travelling from the leather sack.

“I still have something on, so I’ll take my leave first!”

Leylin said to Nyssa, leaving her with a complicated expression on her face.

“Mission is completed, time to meet with Mentor!”

Leylin walked through the gardens and came to the experiment lab where Kroft was.

Dong Dong Dong!

Leylin knocked on the door, following which, the door creaked open, revealing a pretty girl.

The girl was slightly shorter than Leylin by half a head and had beautiful, green hair. Her body contours were extremely seductive. Due to the proximity, Leylin could even catch a whiff of her perfume.

“Bicky! It’s been a long time!” Leylin spoke softly.

“You are... Leylin!” The green-haired girl sized up Leylin suspiciously with a glance, before cheering as she leapt into his arms.

Feeling the soft perky abundance against his chest, and the fragrance that wafted into his nose, Leylin could not help but exclaim at this little girl having matured.

“Alright! I am here to visit Kroft!”

Leylin waited for a good while, and seeing that the girl did not want to leave his embrace, he could only cajole her while patting her on the shoulders.

“Mentor is just inside, together with Merlin!” Bicky rubbed her

somewhat reddened eyes, and her delicate features revealed a smile, “You being alright is really a great thing....”

Leylin nodded his head and walked into the experiment lab.

“Leylin!” Merlin greeted him first. His features did not change much from the past 3 years, only that his temperament seemed more stable and mature. After seeing Leylin, he forced an extremely ugly smile.

“Senior Merlin!” Leylin bowed. His knew that a part of Merlin’s face had suffered from irreparable damage from before, so he did not mind that he was unable to portray common expressions.

After which, Leylin continued walking in.

There was only an experiment table in here. On the operating table, a white-haired, middle-aged man placed the test tube in his hands down, and his pair of golden eyes met Leylin’s eyes.

“I can smell the barely faint smell of the Void Flower in your body, it seems like you really got the petals of a Void Flower!”

Kroft stared at Leylin for some time, before smiling, “You’re really a lucky fellow!

“Haha...” Leylin scratched the back of his head, revealing an embarrassed expression, but deep down he was elated.

After deciding to use the Void Flower as an excuse, he had been concocting the substitute ingredients for the Void Flower.

99.98%

After huge amounts of experiments, he had obtained a type of potion which could emit the scent of the Void Flower with a similarity of 99.98%, to use as his trump card to fool others.

Of course, this potion only had a similar fragrance to the Void Flower, but it did not contain any effect of the original Void Flower at all.

Before coming to the academy, Leylin had especially sprayed some of it on his body, and now it seemed that even Kroft was fooled.

After which, Leylin only had to insist that the effect of the Void Flower was fully consumed by him, then nobody would be able to discover any gaps in his speech.

“No matter what, achieving Level 3 Acolyte before you are 20, you can already be considered as one of the core acolytes in the academy. Only that you have to go to the Administrative Area to register, then your various welfares and statuses will increase....”

Kroft told Leylin about some benefits and authority given to a Level 3 Acolyte, which would be awarded to Leylin.

Finally, Leylin could hardly wait any longer and blurted out, “Professor, this time, I’m here to ask about the matter of the official Magus that you spoke of previously....”

“I knew it!” Kroft nodded, “Ever since I saw you after your first meditation, I knew that you are resolute on the path of a Magus....”

The white-haired, middle-aged man pointed at the chairs in the lab, “Regarding this, it might take a while, so let us sit first.”

Saying which, Kroft walked towards a recliner and sat down, with Leylin following behind him.

The black chair was draped with the leather of some creature, and running your hands across it gave a comfortable feeling. Between the two chairs, there was a small round table.

Bicky served two hot, steaming cups of green refreshments-- her actions was of the official standard as if she had practiced serving innumerable times-- and hurriedly retreated.

“Green Root Fruit Juice! I never thought that Professor would still keep this habit!” Leylin sniffed the fragrance, and his eyes reflected reminiscence.

“Haha... I have always liked these kinds of drinks, even when I’m idle or when doing experiments, I will still take a sip or two. Moreover, for an official Magus, 3 years is only a short time in their life!”

Kroft made several sips of the drink and then asked, "Leylin, do you know how to advance to an official Magus?"

"Please show me the way, Mentor!" Leylin's expression was extremely solemn.

"An official Magus has long since overcome the limitations of a human. They are able to harness the nature's energy and obtain a longer lifespan. Even the worst official Magus is far beyond that of a Level 3 Acolyte! They are extraordinary!"

Kroft's voice sounded mellow, almost as if he were singing.

"This is because of the energy and devastating strength that an official Magus controls. A long time-- maybe a thousand odd years ago, on the Luxe Castle of the South Coast, all magisterium in the South Coast have come to a mutual agreement to control the information about official Magi, and have even endorsed it..."

Kroft spoke of the past history of the Magus World.

"No matter what it is similar to the non-proliferation treaty of nuclear weapons of my previous world!" thought Leylin.

"From then on, before a Level 3 Acolyte advanced to an official Magus, they will sign a contract with the person or organisation imparting the knowledge to them. To promise that there will be in no way the concrete steps of advancing into an official Magus will be divulged. Any violators will accept the judgment of the Trial's Eye, and his soul to be scorched for a thousand years...."

Kroft looked at Leylin, "I too have signed the contract before, hence I was able to obtain the resources and information needed for advancement. Due to the restrictions of this contract, I am unable to share the information with you!"

"However, I can still tell you of some general knowledge around it!" Seeing the obviously disappointed face of Leylin, Kroft continued.

"To advance to an official Magus, the first requirement is for the acolyte to reach a certain standard in the Spiritual Force. From what I see, you are

very close to this criteria already. Actually, for many Level 3 Acolyte, this is not a problem at all.

“As for the real crux, it is to have a defensive spell model of a Rank 1 Spell. This model will become your Innate Defensive Spell in the future. Also, you need a standard amount of Grine Water to complement with the breakthrough!”

Leylin listened attentively, and various emotions flashed across his eyes, “So then, the criteria to advance would be these three: A certain level of Spiritual Force, a defensive Rank 1 Spell and Grine Water! Right?”

“Indeed!” Kroft nodded his head, “Rank 1 Magus spell models and Grine Water are controlled by the huge factions. Even on the counters of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, you will not be able to find them!”

Leylin smiled bitterly. He had already scouted most of the markets in the Poolfield Kingdom. There was absolutely no one place which contained Grine Water or a defensive Rank 1 Spell.

From Level 1 Acolyte to Level 2 Acolyte, all that Leylin had learnt were Rank 0 spells. Obviously, the Magi had made clear divisions on the rankings of spells. Moreover, they coined the spells that acolytes learnt as Rank 0 spells, to differentiate between those spells of official Magi.

As for Grine Water, Leylin seemed to have seen some information pertaining to it on a ruined draft regarding Potioneering. That was a type of potion that was rather difficult for Leylin with his current abilities to brew. Moreover, many main ingredients were monopolised by the huge factions, and there were no traces of the formula.

“So then, Professor, you asked me to come back, which means that I am able to obtain the Grine Water and defensive Rank 1 Spell?” Leylin suddenly asked.

“I can only say that it’s possible.”

Kroft took another sip of the green refreshment. “Advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte before you turn 20 is already considered to be a potential Magus. Therefore, you are qualified to sign a contract with the academy!”

Chapter 83: Bloodbath In The Secret Plane

“Contract? What contract?”

Leylin asked.

“First, you cannot reveal any information regarding the advancement to an official Magus. Furthermore, after you become an official Magus, the contract that you signed when you entered the academy would not impose any restrictions on you anymore. Hence, you must swear upon your soul, under the witness of Trial’s Eye, you will be of service to the academy for 100 years!”

“After signing the contract, you will be able to obtain a defensive Rank 1 Magus spell for free, and a standard amount of Grine Water!

Leylin saw an introduction to Trial’s Eye before on an ancient manual. It seemed to be a massive organism with Rules from a different world. It did not have a consciousness of its own, and magicians preferred to use it as a witness when undertaking important contracts.

The effectiveness of its constraints was known to be amongst the strongest of all contracts. Moreover, there was no way to be rid of it.

Once an agreement was formed, within the span of a hundred years, even if the academy were to have Leylin sacrifice his life during a battle, he had no choice but to obey.

This agreement was similar to a slave contract, yet it had more constraints stipulated in it than in a regular slave contract.

Leylin rejected it immediately within his heart. He was a person for valued absolute freedom, so it was rather distasteful for him to be under such constraints.

Of course, on the surface, Leylin still pretended to be extremely moved, struggling for an answer.

Finally, Leylin asked, with his throat a little parched, “So, Mentor, did you sign such a contract too?”

“Indeed! And because of this, I’ve joined Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and became a member of the professors!” Kroft gave a definitive reply, “Actually, the treatment that the academy gives to Magus like us - who came from abroad - is not too bad. They wouldn’t let us take on extremely difficult tasks as well!”

“Professor, asking me to come back to the academy, I’m sure there is some other way?”

Leylin looked at Kroft in anticipation.

Signing a contract and obtaining resources was a very common practice, and had nothing to do with the current precarious situation the academy was in. Leylin naturally did not assume that Kroft asked him to come back for this.

After hearing Leylin’s words, Kroft seemed to be happy. “Indeed, you are still as intelligent as before. Your eyes are also filled with wisdom, if not for your average aptitude, your achievements in future would definitely surpass Merlin’s!”

The façade of inferiority towards Merlin was put on by Leylin. He smiled, not speaking, waiting to hear what Kroft had to say.

“Actually, the war of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is not over!”

This sentence of Kroft made Leylin’s hair stand straight.

“What?” Leylin was so flabbergasted that he stood up immediately, “Was the war not mediated after the Lighthouse of the Night stepped in to stop Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle?”

“This news is indeed accurate but is incomplete. The war between official Magi have ended, but for acolytes it is still far from ending!”

Kroft smiled wryly.

“Although Lighthouse of the Night is one of the strongest guilds around, they are not the only one. Behind Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle, there is also a powerful guild supporting them from behind.

“Hence, under the mediation of Lighthouse of the Night, although the

war between both sides has ended, yet there was a special clause!”

“What is it?” Leylin could faintly discern that it had something to do with the acolytes, but he still asked.

“The opposing factions have requested us to recall all of our acolytes, and engage in a bloodbath with their acolytes in a secret plane!

“Secret plane!? Bloodbath?”

Towards Leylin who had abundant information and knowledge, only after searching in the A.I. Chip’s data bank, he found the information he needed regarding those two terms.

The secret plane was a dimension used by magicians to protect their own lab and store their resources. It is created by a spell and the dimension is got by connecting to a region from the outside world.

Because of the powerful spell effects outside of these secret planes, magicians of the acolyte level could not break into it. As for some higher levelled secret planes, even if official Magi were to enter, they would also perish.

With the passing of time, some magician guilds will join forces, using spells to form a temporary secret plane, and conduct some experiments or for war/battle.

As for bloodbath, it contained the meaning of madness and massacre.

In the Magus World, if two magicians have a huge conflict that could not longer be mediated, only with death they would rest their case. Under these circumstances, they will undergo a bloodbath with a host as a witness!

Before the bloodbath, both parties would sign an agreement. After any one side dies, their families, professors and friends may not directly avenge them.

This was a kind of battle, but with the effects of spells, the contracts, too, were difficult to breach. Many magicians with dignity would engage in this life and death conflict, yet they did not wish for the collateral damage to

spread. So a bloodbath was the best choice.

“So, the academy summoned us acolytes back....”

Leylin suddenly realised that his throat was extremely parched as if he were a person dying from thirst.

“During the signing of the contract, the other parties have summoned Trial’s Eye as a witness, so our academy could only go according to the stipulated agreement. If not, all of us professors-- including the chairman-- will have our souls resting in eternal peace....”

“This time, it’s not only you guys, even the other genius fifth-grade acolytes, including your senior Merlin, must participate in this bloodbath. Moreover, the acolytes from each of the 3 academies, will all be at the same place....”

“Wait, which is to say, the acolytes from the other two academies will join forces and attack our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?”

Leylin felt rather dizzy, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes have already suffered tremendous casualties from the war before. As for Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle, they were forces with a level similar to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. If any of these two were to engage in a bloodbath battle with Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s acolytes, it would be 50-50, not to mention there’s two of them now.

Moreover, at the moment, there were only 50-60% acolytes remaining behind in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

“This is too crazy, why would the academy accept such conditions?”

“There’s no choice, who asked for our academy to be in such a state? Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle wants to wipe our acolytes out at one go, and let the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s legacy be broken!” Kroft smiled bitterly, “Furthermore, be it our acolytes or the enemies’, they are not allowed to bring in any battle items of official Magus strength. This is programmed into the defensive spell of the secret plane. Any tools which exceed the strength of an acolyte will immediately be rejected upon entering the secret plane....”

“Can I still leave now?” Leylin harboured his tiny glimmer of hope.

“What do you think?” Kroft looked at Leylin deeply in the eyes, and the meaning implicated made Leylin quiver.

“Alright then!” Leylin resigned to his fate and sat down. “The bad news is over? You should tell me some good news now!”

“You little brat!” Kroft smiled and shook his head. “Before the bloodbath, the academy will conduct a competition, where the rewards are bountiful. Moreover, various remuneration have increased by twofold, and the spell models and potions on the sales counter are also at a large discount....”

“They want to raise the strength of their own acolytes before the bloodbath, huh?” Leylin thought silently. He was a very optimistic person and had already faintly thought of a scenario like this before, unlike the extremely shocked appearance he was putting on right now. Since there is no room for retreat, his brain immediately adapted to the situation.

“All these have nothing to do with the advancement of official Magus. Previous, Mentor has told me that there is a method to advance, could it be inside the bloodbath?”

“Indeed! The academy has issued a mission to all Level 3 Acolyte like you for a blood vengeance. You are to massacre as many acolytes as you can inside the bloodbath!”

A sign of madness appeared for the first time on Kroft’s bespectacled features.

“We have assigned points on the enemy acolytes, every Level 1 Acolyte is worth 1 contribution points, Level 2 Acolytes are worth 3 points, and Level 3 Acolyte as 10 points. Towards the more noteworthy acolytes, we have corresponding values assigned to them.

There was a huge temptation behind Kroft’s words, “This time the academy’s mission reward is extremely bountiful. If you were to obtain enough contribution points, no matter if it is a Rank 1 Magus defensive spell model or Grine Water, they all can be exchanged for with contribution points!”

“This is the only method that does not require a contract, and still can advance with resources!”

“If it’s this way....” Leylin closed his eyes, and quietly pondered of his mentor’s speech.

On the surface, Leylin looked calm. In fact, his brain had already begun to ponder over various scenarios, with the A.I. Chip constantly bringing out different simulations, projecting them in front of Leylin.

Minutes later, Leylin stood up again and bowed to his Professor Kroft. “If there is nothing else, please allow me to take my leave!”

“Where are you going?” Kroft was rather stunned by his own apprentice’s actions.

“Of course to see the Trading Post and sales counter!”

Leylin bowed again, and after obtaining Kroft’s approval, he left immediately.

Walking on an empty school route, Leylin thought over many things. First of all, trying to escape under the noses of various professors of the official Magus Level and then being hunted was something impossible.

Leylin only thought briefly, before beginning to toss that notion away.

Previously, he was able to escape was because of Kroft’s pointer and his personal capabilities. The largest reason was still that the academy allowed him to leave. If not, regardless of then and now, Leylin would never be able to walk out of the academy’s doors.

“Compared to official Magus, it seems like there is more hope in the bloodbath between acolytes, although the situation is still as unfavourable as before!”

Leylin walked to the Trading Post. The acolytes here numbered slightly more than other places, but many acolytes still had glum expressions on their faces. It seems that they had already gotten news of the upcoming bloodbath.

First, Leylin went to Woon’s store to have a look. A pity, however, the

little wooden hut was already gone, and the fatty Woon was not known to have escaped or died.

Leylin sighed in disappointment. At the Trading Post, he purchased some ingredients he needed, before walking to the spell models sales counter.

Chapter 84: A Secret Divulged

“Is there anything I can help you with?”

The disgusting woman behind the counter previously had now disappeared, changing into a friendly looking old geezer.

“Where’s the woman from before?” Leylin asked.

“Dakota? Already dead!” A tinge of sadness seemed to appear on the old geezer’s face.

“Give me the spell model catalogue!” Thinking of that fussy woman from before, Leylin felt extremely glad. Even the sinking feeling from the mandatory attendance of the bloodbath had slowly reduced.

“Here!” The old geezer handed over a booklet made from parchment paper over to Leylin.

Leylin opened to have a look. The first page was of Fire element Rank O spells, on the page number it shone with red light, indicating the element of the spells listed.

Leylin continued flipping. Water element, Plant element, even Necromancy Rank O spells had all shone in their respective colours.

As for Shadow, Dark Element Rank O spells, Leylin had already collected almost all, so he did not look any further.

While browsing through the booklet, Leylin realised that the prices of these spell models had reduced by more than half, so they were already selling them at a loss.

It was a pity, however, that for regular acolytes, to master a Rank O spell, they must take at least months. Towards this imminent bloodbath, it was futile to start mastering them now.

“This Secondary Energy Fireball of the Fire element, Dampened Earth of the Water element, and the manipulation of corpses from the Necromancy Element, and this, and this.... One of them each.”

Since the spell model prices have plunged down, and Leylin had Magic

Crystals, he could naturally afford to splurge on them.

To him, it was like a sweep of the warehouse sale.

After handing the old geezer a huge bag of Magic Crystals, and requested him to send people to carry the books over, Leylin then asked, “Are there any Rank 1 spell models here?”

“My apologies, our counter here only sells Rank 0 spells for the acolytes.” The old geezer shrugged his shoulders and put on a helpless appearance. It seems like Leylin wasn’t the first acolyte to ask him about this.

After obtaining an answer he expected, Leylin nodded his head and left.

His earlier question was just to try his luck, so he wasn’t very disappointed.

Ka-cha! Creak!

First, it was the sound of a bronze key entering the keyhole and the turning of the lock.

“We’re here, place the things down!”

Leylin opened his dorm’s door and said towards several servants carrying boxes behind him.

Boom! The few servants placed the spell models books onto the ground, letting off a loud noise.

After placing Leylin’s purchase, these servants bowed to Leylin and walked out of the room.

“There is actually no change here!”

Leylin sized up his room. There was still a bright light radiating from within. Apart from more dust being collected, the rest was still the same as before.

“Amansi!”

Leylin snapped his fingers. Suddenly a green whirlwind appeared from within the room.

The spiralling of the whirlwind continued, bringing the bedsheets and tablecloths floating into the air. A few grey dust particles were sucked into that whirlwind.

Very soon the green whirlwind spun around the room once, and many dust particles were trapped in it, turning a murky green colour, finally it dropped into the bin.

“Now it seems much more comfortable and clean!”

Leylin looked at the dorm that was as good as new, and nodded his head in satisfaction, before placing the spell models and ingredients away nicely.

After all was done, Leylin first went to the dining hall to have a sumptuous dinner, before returning to the room and picking up a spell model book.

“Secondary Energy Fireball huh?” Leylin looked at the fire red book. “A.I. Chip! Record!”

[Beep! Scanning in progress!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Hours later, the A.I. Chip replied, [The spell model of Secondary Energy Fireball has been recorded, analysing in progress: 9.23%]

After his advancement into a Level 3 Acolyte, the A.I. Chip which was part of his soul also obtained an increase in processing capabilities.

To Leylin, other acolytes need continuous memorisation and use of their Spiritual Force to construct the spell models in their mind. This would require a huge consumption of time, and once something goes awry, it would result in a waste of time.

However, for Leylin, he only needed the A.I. Chip to analyse the spell and send it over to his hippocampus, then he would remember this spell model forever. In future, he only needed to activate his Spiritual Force, before completely mastering the spell model.

To put it simply, the A.I. Chip had substituted the process of memory and also created a framework for him in his mind. It was like digging a

pool, the A.I. Chip would help Leylin in digging a pool, and Leylin only needed to put forth his Spiritual Force like water into the pool. This saved a huge amount of time, which made Leylin's learning abilities on spell models much faster than regular acolytes.

“A.I. Chip! Establish mission! With all the Rank 0 spells as the foundation, begin simulating the model for a Rank 1 spell!”

From what Leylin could see, the might of a Rank 1 spell was stronger than a Rank 0 spell. Only with enough material, with the A.I. Chip's calculation abilities, can he manage to simulate a certain Rank 1 spell model. There could even be a new spell model that had never appeared before in the Magus World!

[Mission establishing! Information on Rank 1 spells missing, beginning simulation....]

Rows of data were projected in front of Leylin's eyes.

[Estimated might of a Rank 1 spell: 20 degrees and above! Information sources: <In Depth Spell Model Analysis>, <All Living Things Studies>, <Spell Constructing Manual>, Umbra's Hand spell model, Secondary Energy Fireball spell model.... Simulation time: Unable to estimate!]

The A.I. Chip listed many sources of material and even replied with an answer that it was unable to estimate for the first time.

However, Leylin smiled. “As expected, although the time is not confirmed, but the A.I. Chip can very well simulate a spell model of a Rank 1 spell....”

“What's next, once I have a standard amount of Grine Water, and reach the requirement of the Spiritual Force to advance, then I can give it a go....”

For Leylin, he would try simulating a Rank 1 spell model with the A.I. Chip. But for the Grine Water, as it was a type of intermediate potion, the formula had always been held by the various large magician guilds. There was no way of them being divulged to outsiders. Many of the ingredients to brew it were also monopolised by these guilds, so there was no way he

could brew it on his own.

Hence, his main goal in the upcoming bloodbath, was, under the circumstances of self-preservation, that he would try his best to acquire as many contribution points as possible to exchange for the Grine Water!

If he even had to purchase a spell model with the contribution points, he had no confidence to retaliate under the two academies joining forces and obtaining enough contribution points.

Moreover, even if he did, he would be marked down by the enemy Magi, which was not beneficial for his future growth.

But now he only needed to get one of the two, so the difficulty was reduced by half. The attention he would be getting would be reduced too.

“Also, I have to complete the Fallen Star Pendant for a chance to live on in the bloodbath!”

Leylin’s hand turned over, revealing that silver cross.

Under the bright light, the jewels on the cross glittered resplendently.

“Once I have this low-grade defensive Magic Artifact, my survival chances will definitely increase in the secret plane!”

Leylin muttered, and came to his experiment lab beside the room, withdrawing the Confining Spirit Sphere that held Roman captive.

The originally dimmed crystal ball gradually radiated with light after Leylin undid the seal. Light reflected from it like amber, with a translucent worm-sized like human figure in it.

“Roman! Actually, I wanted to spend more time on you to pry more information from your mouth. A pity, however, there isn’t much time left....”

Regret surfaced on Leylin’s face.

As for the vengeful spirit, Roman, who was inside the crystal ball, he shuddered. The crazed and bloodthirsty look disappeared from his face, replaced by a pair of eyes that radiated intelligence.

“A Level 3 Acolyte’s soul which transformed into a vengeful spirit, can definitely accomplish the final step - Spirit awakening!”

Leylin placed the silver cross beside the Confining Spirit Sphere and began to draw various runes with a feather quill and other tools on the large experiment table.

The runes and characters continuously writhed and twisted, forming a strange magic rune.

Along with Leylin’s incantation and tossing of ingredients, the huge magic rune let off a dim grey glow.

As for Roman who was within the Confining Spirit Sphere, he seemed to have seen something extremely dangerous, and even his voice started to quiver, “No... You can’t do this....”

The final step of synthesizing the Fallen Star Pendant required a sealed spirit that was full of energy, which is the best catalyst for the activation process.

Roman, who had the strength of a Level 3 Acolyte in his previous life, was the perfect ingredient for Leylin right now!

After a vengeful spirit is sealed within the Fallen Star Pendant, Roman’s soul will be forever trapped within that silver cross, and suffer from never-ending torment. He could only wait for the day when the silver cross shatters, before his soul will be dissipated.

“You, who is in such a state, have you got any other bargaining chip for me?”

After finishing drawing the spell formation, and sizing up the spirit which was repeatedly begging him from within the Confining Spirit Sphere, a curious smile spread across Leylin’s face.

“I... I am an outstanding alchemist and have mastered many secrets and special skills in alchemy. If only you let me go, I will hand them all over to you....”

Seeing the resolute expression on Leylin’s face, Roman started to reveal

everything that he knew, for a sliver of a chance to stay alive.

“Not enough! Most of your things were already recorded inside that Alchemy book, and these benefits will not be able to compensate for the loss of my Fallen Star Pendant!” Leylin’s face turned icy cold.

“I... I also know of a secret about magicians who advance to an official Magus! If only you swear to let me go, I will tell you! That is something that all the higher ups in the magician guilds have done their best to conceal!”

Chapter 85: Obscurity

“A secret concerning official Magi?”

Leylin smiled, “Don’t tell me you know the spell model of a Rank 1 spell, or the location of some Grine Water and whatnot....”

“You actually know of these....” Roman put on a shocked expression, but very soon it turned into a smirk.

“Yes! Your professor must have definitely told you that to become a Rank 1 Magus, you need a defensive spell model as well as Grine Water, right?”

“Could it be that there is something more to it?” Suddenly Leylin had an ominous feeling.

“Hahaha...” Roman started laughing maniacally, “You have been duped by your professor, or maybe, even your professor doesn’t know of it....”

“Do you know the rankings of official Magi?” After laughing hysterically, Roman suddenly became calm and asked Leylin.

“It seems a Magus is differentiated by 9 ranks. Rank 1 as the lowest, and Rank 9 as the highest. The indication is to release a spell of that rank without any backlash!”

This was some information that Leylin heard from a certain lecturer. However, he had treated it as only a myth. After all, in the whole of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, all the professors were only Rank 1 Magus, save for the chairman who was in the realm of a Rank 2 Magus.

As for Rank 3 Magi, only the heads of powerful guilds such as Lighthouse of the Night had that cultivation.

Leylin was simply unable to comprehend the extent of the power that a Rank 9 Magus could wield.

“It seems as if you have been trying your best to obtain information regarding official Magi....”

Seeing that he had successfully piqued Leylin’s interest, Roman rested

lazily against the wall of the crystal ball, and said, “The strength of official Magus, rest on their ability to inscribe a Rank 1 spell successfully in their sea of consciousness, thus turning into their own innate defensive spell! They will then obtain an instantaneous spell casting or the spell will be permanently in effect. Moreover, the consumption is extremely little....”

Leylin nodded his head, the innate spell of official Magi could always be maintained around the surface of their bodies, forming a barrier. This was why the A.I. Chip’s readings were always hindered by these barriers of Magi, thus, it was unable to obtain the data needed.

“After advancing to a Rank 1 Magus, a Magus’ sea of consciousness will form an innate spell. If this Magus was to advance again, turning into a Rank 2 Magus, he will have to construct a new innate spell. Furthermore, it has to be constructed on the foundation of the original innate spell. Which is to say, a Rank 2 Magus has 2 innate spells, and a Rank 3 Magus has 3 innate spells. If it was a Rank 9 Magus of the legends, they would have 9 innate spells, and the final one is a Rank 9 spell!”

For a chance to survive, Roman divulged a few details known to few.

“Which is to say, if it was a Rank 9 Magus, they can instantaneously cast spells of Rank 1 to 9!”

Leylin felt sluggish. He could not resist even a Rank 1 spell, to say nothing of a Rank 9 spell cast by a Grand Magus.

Once a Magus was able to cast high-level spells instantaneously, it would mean that their battle prowess would be capable of burning down mountains and evaporating the seas.

“And what is this scam that you’re speaking of?”

Leylin asked suddenly.

“Hehe! An innate spell is the root of the Magus’ Spiritual Force. Once constructed, it will be irreversible for eternity. Moreover, the innate spells after the first and original one have to be modelled after it. What would happen if you were to choose your innate spell wrongly? Two innate spells conflicting with each other in the sea of consciousness will result in a

deficient spell as the best case scenario. The most likely event is that your brain will explode like an alchemy bomb. Bang! And off your head goes!”

Roman made an explosive gesture and sniggered.

“This scenario is extremely plausible!” Leylin face darkened.

“So then, where is the crux of this scam?”

“They have concealed the existence of advanced meditation techniques!” Roman hugged his knees as he squatted.

“Advanced meditation techniques?” Leylin’s heart wavered. He had faintly come across information on this, but even if it was his mentor, Kroft, had never seen such advanced source/material like them.

“Yes, advanced meditation techniques completely suit a magician’s Spiritual Force meditation techniques! Not only is the rate faster than those regular meditation techniques in constructing mind runes, they will even naturally form an innate spell in the Magus sea of consciousness on every level!”

“Naturally forming innate spells? You mean....” Leylin’s voice grew weak.

“Indeed, if the advanced meditation techniques were to increase its level, they will directly raise the rank of a Magus. There wouldn’t be any need for Grine Water or spell model!”

Roman smirked. “Also, according to the innate spell formed by the meditation technique, they’d directly complement each other. Not only is there no conflict with the innate spells, the meditation technique will even enhance the effect of the innate spell!”

“Think about it! If you were to use Grine Water to breakthrough, you will realise that your future levels will be extremely difficult to breakthrough. Every time you advance, you would require something more potent and effective than the Grine Water to aid in the advancement. Not only that, you have to scour the lands for an innate spell which does not conflict with the one you already have. This is purely based on luck, and basically it cannot be done!”

“And tens of hundreds of years will pass. The Magi who had cultivated in advanced meditation techniques would have continuously risen in their levels, while you will be on the bottom rung of the hierarchy struggling to survive, finally dying in some corner where nobody cares about....”

More and more cold sweat began to gather on Leylin’s forehead.

With his abundant experience, and the calculation done by the A.I. Chip, he knew that what Roman spoke of was 98% authentic.

“The Magus World is indeed ensnared with pitfalls, and not one step can be wrongly taken!”

“So then, you wish to use a part of an advanced meditation technique to exchange for your petty life?” Leylin deeply inhaled for a few breaths, before asking Roman.

“Indeed, once you swear before the witness of the Trial’s Eye, I will hand over the location of one of these advanced meditation techniques!”

Roman howled, “If you won’t let me go, then never think of getting that piece of advanced meditation technique!”

“Has that advanced meditation technique got to do with the Great Magus Serholm?” Leylin fell silent for a while before he suddenly asked.

“You know about it? That’s right, you have been to that lab too, and it seems that you have discovered some information!” Roman was a little shocked, before putting on a nonchalant air.

“But so what? A part of an advanced meditation technique is indeed enough to redeem my life!”

“Alright!” Leylin fell into silence for a while, before finally agreeing.

Following which, he chanted a mysterious incantation.

This incantation was an extreme tongue twister, and there were many pauses. It required a huge amount of Magic Power before the chant was finished.

Leylin was only able to use this incantation after advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte.

Following the enunciation of the final syllable, an energy wave came from the void, and the surrounding light dimmed. In the air above of that experiment table, a mysterious vertical eye appeared.

This vertical eye's iris was pitch black, with its pupils dyed a crimson-red. Under its gaze, Leylin's body shuddered, as if not wearing any clothes. All of his secrets seemed to have been exposed to it.

"A.I. Chip! Scan!"

Leylin ordered from the bottom of his heart, yet he did not receive any response.

It seems like the current ability of the A.I. Chip was still unable to detect such a strange entity like the Trial's Eye. Even if it was only a secondary body that did not even contain a billionth of the main body's might.

"With the Trial's Eye as a witness, I, Leylin Farlier, will immediately release Roman from the Confining Spirit Sphere once Roman tells me the information regarding the advanced meditation technique.

Leylin spoke slowly using the Byron Language.

The moment Leylin finished his oath; the Trial's Eye turned into a black light, and separately entered each of Leylin's and Roman's foreheads.

"Alright! I have done as you requested, hurry and tell me the location of the advanced meditation technique!"

Impatience surfaced on Leylin's face.

"Alright! Regarding the advanced meditation technique, actually, I don't know much of it. Only that every advanced meditation technique have different requirements for the cultivator's affinity and soul aptitude."

"As for me, I have read it from a piece of writing left by a Magus, the lead to the lab of the Great Magus Serholm. I also know that he left the legacy of the advanced meditation technique in a certain lab!"

Under the constraints of the Trial's Eye, Roman began to spill everything he knew.

"There is a requirement for the cultivators, how about the requirements

for the meditation technique?” Leylin asked.

“I don’t know. With my ability as a Level 3 Acolyte, obtaining the location of a piece of meditation technique is already extremely lucky, so how can I have more extravagant demands? Eventually, I hastily went to explore the lab, only to end up dying within it!”

Roman smiled sardonically.

“So then, tell me the location of that meditation technique!” Leylin’s face was impassive as he spoke in a low tone.

“On that piece of broken page, I obtained a few locations. The previous location is crossed out now, so that leaves only one. It is the Dylan Gardens which rests within the Zither Moon Mountain Plains!”

“Zither Moon Mountain Plains, Dylan Gardens?”

Leylin suddenly thought of this place that he had come across in his previous exploration. “So the Dylan Gardens was situated on the Zither Moon Mountain Plains, huh?”

“All I know are these, hurry and let me out!” Roman howled.

“Alright! I will let you out now. Under the constraints of the Trial’s Eye, I will dare not offend!”

Leylin smiled and snapped his fingers.

Boom!

The whole Confining Spirit Sphere shattered into pieces, revealing the translucent spirit body within.

At the same time, two rays of light flew out from Leylin’s and Roman’s body. This proved that the agreement with the Trial’s Eye has already been fulfilled by Leylin.

“Haha! I’m free! I’m free!”

Roman shouted.

“Yes! I have abided by my promise, and released you from the Confining Spirit Sphere! Now, we are even!”

Leylin suddenly waved his hands and activated the spell formation.

Bang!

In an instant, the spell runes on the experiment table irradiated with light, engulfing Roman within.

“What happened? You! How can you escape from the binding agreement!”

Roman’s face was in utter shock.

Chapter 86: Fallen Star Pendant

“I have already abided by my agreement and released you from the Confining Spirit Sphere. What happens next is not a part of the contract!”

Leylin’s voice was extremely unconcerned.

This was just simple wordplay. Magicians were all intelligent people, and could not be lied to easily.

However, Roman was different. He had already died a long time ago, and his spirit body had transformed into a vengeful spirit. Naturally, his intelligence could not even be comparable to that of an average human.

Moreover, after spending so much time inside the lab, Leylin had been diligently exercising various methods to reduce Roman’s intelligence, making him more muddled, in order to interrogate him.

As expected, even if Roman had unexpectedly regained his intelligence today under the brink of his death, he was still manipulated by Leylin and gave away the important information to the advanced meditation technique.

“Even for me, as of now, a Level 3 Acolyte spirit body is extremely hard to acquire, so how could I let you leave?”

Leylin did not bother paying attention to Roman’s curses, and placed the silver cross in the centre of the runes, as he began to complete the final step for the Fallen Star Pendant.

The Fallen Star Pendant came from a derelict page in the Lowian Academy Teachings. After having been decrypted by the A.I. Chip, together with the Alchemy diary found on Roman’s corpse, Leylin was able to deduce the correct procedure for synthesizing it.

After advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte, Leylin had dedicated most of his time and effort on synthesizing this low-grade Magic Artifact.

After costing Leylin a large amount of Magic Crystals and ingredients, the Fallen Star Pendant was almost completed, where the final step remained - spirit awakening!”

According to Leylin's deductions and the A.I. Chip's calculations, the final step, the spirit awakening, had already involved the aspect of spirit and was something that he could not resolve then.

However, Leylin sought a huge number of living bodies from Viscount Jackson of Extreme Night City as a main material in observing the soul.

After many years of research, Leylin could already confirm that within Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, he would be the foremost regarding the topic of soul research, and might even surpass many Magi.

After so many experiments, the spirit awakening step did not pose a problem for Leylin.

However, he had no leads on the other ancient formula that he obtained from Kroft, Tears of Mary, up till now.

Leylin's guess was that this formula was meant for an official Magus, something which an acolyte could not get involved with yet.

"For the Spirit awakening, a stronger spirit body is not necessarily better. According to the A.I. Chip's simulation and my own deductions, a Level 3 Acolyte would be the most suitable for it...."

Leylin looked at the vengeful spirit, Roman, who was writhing and cursing him on the light formation.

"For a long time, I have deliberately calibrated Roman's spirit strength to be compatible with the final step. As long as I am able to complete the spirit awakening, the Magic Artifact that I get will definitely be perfect!"

This was the trump card that Leylin had prepared for the upcoming bloodbath.

A low-grade Magic Artifact did not exceed the boundaries of an official Magus. However, for acolytes, it was almost impossible for them to destroy the defense on this Magic Artifact.

As long as Leylin had that pendant, his safety in the bloodbath would be greatly increased.

"Let me go! You promised me!"

Roman who was trapped within the spell formation continuously howled.

At the end, the vengeful spirit Roman cursed in a low tone, “Despicable miscreant, I curse you....”

“Enough of your nonsense!” Leylin’s brow furrowed and he poured a silver liquid directly onto the Fallen Star Pendant.

Sssii!

A cloud of white smoke rose from the silver necklace, and the white mist in the air transformed into a large jaw lined with razor sharp teeth, which bit at Roman directly.

Ka-cha!

Roman was immediately eaten by the large malevolent mouth, which it opened and closed as if enjoying the aftertaste.

Leylin stared at the large mouth, and after seeing that Roman was completely devoured, he began to chant an incantation.

The chanting voice reverberated around the area, and Leylin’s spell formation that he drew on the experiment lab began to shrink to the centre, and finally, it all transferred onto the Fallen Star Pendant.

With the convergence of the runes, the patterns on the silver cross seemed more detailed and glowed with mysterious colours of light.

“Seal!”

Leylin fixed his gaze on the cross. When the runes were all accepted by the silver Fallen Star Pendant, he pointed at the huge mouth in midair.

Pu! A sound similar to a bubble popping sounded.

The white mouth was directly dispersed, and threads of white gaseous bodies were emitted. In the centre of them were many strands of black colour, which continuously fell onto the silver cross.

“With my name, Leylin Farlier, Fallen Star Pendant, shimmer!”

Leylin’s expression was solemn, and he bit his fingers, dripping a droplet

of blood onto the Fallen Star Pendant.

The red jewel in the silver cross sparkled and directly sucked Leylin's blood into it.

Bang! A strong suction force appeared from the Fallen Star Pendant, circling around the surface of the silver cross and forming a whirlwind. It directly sucked in all of the black and white gaseous compounds.

The thick mist enveloped the silver cross within, and it floated in midair, becoming a luminescent ball of black and white.

"Very good! The awakening phase is activated, and everything has been going smoothly without a hitch so far!"

Leylin looked at the glowing ball in midair, his eyes holding a fervent gaze. "What's next, is...."

On the second morning, Leylin stared at a silver cross held in his palm, his face revealing an elated expression.

At this moment, the Fallen Star Pendant was a silver grey colour, and the jewels also seemed dull and without lustre. Based on outer appearances alone, it could not even be compared to the previous half completed item. However the A.I. Chip's indication made Leylin feel ecstatic.

[Beep! Low-grade Magic Artifact - Fallen Star Pendant has been successfully synthesized!]

[Fallen Star Pendant - Low-grade Magic Artifact. Main components used for defence: Stellar Alloy, Manfayla Rock, Mankestre Bone Marrow....]

[Physical Defence: 13 degrees, Magical Defence: 15 degrees. Instant activation when Host is attacked!]

The various stats shown on the A.I. Chip made Leylin extremely ecstatic. A defence Magic Artifact could not even be bought in the market.

Normally speaking, the attack of a Level 3 Acolyte was around 10 degrees or so. Only official Magi and above would be able to cast a magic spell of over 20 degrees.

With the Fallen Star Pendant in hand, while it still had energy, Leylin

could completely ignore the attacks of Level 1 and Level 2 Acolytes. Together with the Trevor's Revolving Shield Potion, Leylin would be able to endure a barrage of attacks even if it came from a Level 3 Acolyte.

One could say that with the successful synthesis of the Fallen Star Pendant, Leylin's survival was assured.

"This Magic Artifact is like a simplified version of an official Magus' defensive force field!" Suddenly Leylin exclaimed.

Reverence and respect for magicians uncontrollably welled up in Leylin's heart even more.

The continued tradition of the Magus World was only in recent times, for about 1000 years. Before this, there were even the glorified and magnificent ancient times of the past. Back in the ancient past, the primordial and immemorial past, there was a countless accumulation of time, yet how many from these periods were geniuses? How many had invented mysterious spells?

Only by standing on a giant's shoulder, one could see the road ahead clearly, strive hard and advance!

Even with the A.I. Chip, Leylin only had a better foundation than other magicians. On the path of a Magus, he still required to rely on the experiences of his predecessors and improve both himself and his abilities.

After sighing, Leylin hung the silver grey cross on his neck.

The ice cold pendant came into direct contact with the skin, and Leylin pulled up his collar. This way, no one could tell that Leylin was wearing a pendant just by looking at the surface.

"With the Fallen Star Pendant, my defense is guaranteed. What's next is to make use of the A.I. Chip to come up with a combination of a few strong Rank 0 spells to be used in the bloodbath.

Although Leylin believed Roman's words, with the current rewards, he wouldn't let it go.

His previous plan was to obtain the Grine Water through the bloodbath, and right now he did not plan to give up.

After all, he still couldn't defeat any Rank 1 Magi. Under the compulsion of the academy and professors, he still needed to join the bloodbath in the secret plane.

Dong Dong Dong!

Just when Leylin was deep in thought, a patterned knocking on the door sounded.

"Please enter!" Leylin hurriedly removed the traces of his work in the lab and arranged his clothes before he spoke.

Creak!

The wooden door was pushed open, and at that moment, when Bicky who wore a green dress, walked in, a scented fragrance wafted in and infiltrated Leylin's nose.

"Leylin! Mentor has asked me to get you to register for the upcoming school competition...."

Bicky toyed with a white flower in her hands.

Before the bloodbath, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had already spared no hesitation in nurturing its acolytes. The prices of various ingredients and spell models had plunged, and they had also hosted many competitions before the bloodbath.

Only with participation, there would be generous rewards, such as Magic Crystals, spell models, ingredients and the like.

As for the top few ranks, they were even given scrolls of spells and attack type potions as rewards.

However, Leylin did not lack Magic Crystals, and he could also brew attack type potions for himself. As for the reward for the champion, it was not a Magic Artifact, so he was not attracted in the slightest.

However, he still had to, at least, show some superficial effort. Leylin nodded his head and walked out of the dorm with Bicky.

After not seeing her for 3 years, the girl from before had turned into a beautiful young lady. Bicky was silent as she led the way. Leylin opened his mouth but did not know what to say.

The two walked through the garden zone, and Bicky smiled and said, "Leylin! You know what? Fayle has already agreed to let me be his girlfriend!"

Saying which, Leylin acutely discovered a peculiar expression from within Bicky's eyes.

"Oh really? Congratulations!"

Leylin had known of Bicky crush on Fayle it since the very first day he entered. After seeing his good friend fulfilling what she wished for, he was somewhat happy for Bicky.

At the same time, he was somewhat worried. He had some understanding towards Fayle's character and knew that Fayle liked to be in the limelight. On top of that, Fayle was rather vain. However, after seeing Bicky's smiling expression, Leylin still chose to maintain his silence.

Chapter 87: Competition

“The registration area is just ahead!”

After walking through the garden zone, Bicky took the initiative to familiarize Leylin with the registration area.

“The academy competitions are split into many categories. There are some potion brewing ones, some for harvesting plants, and other lesser known subjects. However, the liveliest event is still the fighting competition. Any acolyte is able to join, and the reward is the most generous!”

“Although the acolytes are able to participate in many events, Professor Kroft said that you had better join the potion brewing event!”

Bicky looked at Leylin, not masking her worried expression.

“Don’t worry; I am only prepared to join the potion brewing event!”
Leylin smiled as he consoled Bicky.

Leylin did not want to compete head on with those genius fifth-grade acolytes. Behind them were the support of many professors, and they would definitely carry Magic Artifacts with them.

Moreover, the battle prize was not attractive to him at all. This prize was obviously prepared as a final chance to give to those average acolytes.

Although Leylin came only as a mere formality, naturally he had to choose the simplest way to do it.

The front of the education area was lined with several black desks. The banner behind them had words like Potioneering and Fighting.

Many acolytes were crowding around the tables to register.

Looking on, it seemed like they were acolytes who had recently rushed back to the academy.

Leylin thought for a while before directly registering for the Potioneering battle.

“Hold on to this! Your assigned number is 32, and the competition will

start tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. Please be punctual and come to the large hall in experiment zone 13 in order to participate!"

The administrative staff wearing grey robes handed a parchment paper over to Leylin, and also routinely gave him a numbered card.

"Next!"

With the impatient voice of the grey-robed person sounding, Leylin rubbed his nose, shook his head, and walked away.

"Let's go to the restaurant to celebrate!" Leylin said to Bicky, who was beside him.

"It's better if I pay for it, as a celebration for us meeting again after such a long time!" Bicky's face revealed a joyous expression.

.....

On the second day, Leylin arrived 5 minutes earlier at Hall 13.

At this moment, many Potioneering acolytes were already waiting here. Some recognised Leylin and smiled as they greeted him while some faces were extremely unfamiliar.

This was not strange, as most magicians holed themselves up, often staying in their experiment labs to conduct experiments, especially those who practiced Potioneering and Alchemy.

Merlin and Bicky also entered the crowd, smiling at Leylin.

Ding Ling Ling! With a crisp bell sound, a black-robed figure emerged from the crowd.

"Official Magus!" Leylin exclaimed silently. Although he was not the same as before, compared to an official Magus, he was still an ant.

The A.I. Chip was also helpless, as it was blocked by the defensive force field surrounding the official Magus.

"All of you, enter the main hall and go to your respective allocated areas as is indicated by your card number. I will only wait for 5 minutes, and those who aren't there by then will be immediately disqualified!"

The black robed figure's voice was extremely hoarse and unpleasing to the ears.

After finishing his speech, the black-robed Magus shook his robe, and his body split apart, turning into innumerable bats, which flew away.

The acolytes that were present looked each other in the eye.

Bang! Not knowing who made the first move, the whole hall clamoured and squeezed through into the main hall.

Although Leylin was not in a hurry, his body was involuntarily pushed into the hall with the crowd.

With a great effort, he managed to get to his experiment table.

The number 32 was scribbled on the corner of a pure white table. There were also a few herbs, ingredients and a piece of parchment paper on the table. With just a whiff Leylin knew that these were the necessary ingredients for a healing potion.

"Five minutes are up, any acolyte who has not found their place is deemed disqualified!"

The black robed Magus' voice sounded again. At the same time, there were cries from many acolytes.

Leylin saw an unlucky fellow beside him, who was just one step away from his table, grabbed by a black bat and thrown outside of the hall.

"The topic, this time, is to brew a healing potion! The formula and ingredients are on the experiment table, and you will have 3 hours...."

After dealing with the group of disqualified acolytes, the black robed Magus' voice sounded yet again.

"Your every move is under my vigilance, so do not try to cheat your way through it. If not, I will educate you on a lesson of blood!"

"As expected!" Leylin picked up the parchment paper, and it was indeed the formula of a healing potion.

"Such an elementary potion like this, I have brewed it so many times

that I could vomit !”

Leylin felt extremely frustrated, but he still skillfully picked up a beaker...

To an outsider, Leylin’s every movement now was textbook standard. His arms were strong, and they did not quiver. During the process of brewing, every action was filled with a unique aesthetic movement.

Drip!

A drop of green liquid was placed into a test tube, and the whole test tube momentarily turned red.

“It’s completed!” Leylin looked at the A.I. Chip’s recording time, “1 hour 20 minutes? It seems like I have become a little bit rusty!”

“En! Very good, it’s completed!”

A black bat immediately flew onto Leylin’s experiment table and scrutinised Leylin’s potion.

“Sir!” Leylin hurriedly bowed.

“I recognise you! Aren’t you Leylin? The apprentice of that old geezer Kroft! The heavens are really unfair; he already had such an outstanding apprentice, Merlin, yet now, it even sent you to him....”

The bat seemed to recognise Kroft, and muttered by the side. Leylin maintained his silence throughout.

Leylin had no thoughts of establishing a relationship with a Magus, and he did not have the ability to do so either.

“Alright! Let me sniff the potion!

It could be seen that after seeing Leylin keep his silence like a log, the bat cursed for a while before suddenly speaking.

Leylin opened the plug on the test tube and placed it below the bat’s head.

“En! Healing potion! The quality is excellent! Kiddo, you have passed!”

The bat somewhat regretfully flew away, and let off an unpleasant voice,

“Leylin! Consider changing professors and joining me....”

Towards this, Leylin could only smile wryly.

.....

The Potioneering competition carried on for two days and one night.

Fortunately, the acolytes could all manipulate the energy particles to strengthen their bodies, so they could endure throughout the entirety of the competition.

Leylin had also been brewing potions in these two days.

Along with the intensity of the competition, the topics given by the academy became more and more difficult. Bicky had already been eliminated in the third round. At the very end, they moved on to beginner potions.

Through these series of tests, Leylin distinguished himself above the rest, and stormed through the competition with his senior, Merlin.

As for the contents of the finals, it was to brew a Hofdor’s Water of Radiance. This was a kind of healing potion that was able to treat injuries caused by negative energy spells. Even amongst the beginner potions, it was known to be extremely difficult to brew.

Although Leylin had the confidence to brew it successfully with the A.I. Chip, for concealment reasons, he spontaneously pretended to make a mistake, and lost to Merlin, taking second place.

Deep in the night, Leylin returned to his dorm, and tossed the second prize reward, a Fiery Combustion Potion, aside.

This type of attack potion had a might of 8 to 9 degrees, which could be considered to be an extremely remarkable trump card for a Level 3 Acolyte. However, it was not worthy in Leylin’s eyes.

Since a year ago, he could already brew a potion like this on his own.

“It’s finally over. What’s left is to wholeheartedly prepare for the secret plane bloodbath!”

Concerning the bloodbath between the few academies, it couldn't just be glossed over hastily like the academy competitions.

Even during the intra-school fighting competition, there was only a loss of a few acolytes' lives due to mishaps.

However, during the bloodbath, it was two against one, and their enemy's goal was to eradicate the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

Dong Dong Dong!

While deep in thought, Leylin heard a knocking noise outside the door.

"Who is it? It's so late already!" Leylin was rather unhappy as he opened the door.

"It's me!" Outside the door, there was a girl wrapped in a cloak, and her voice sounded coquettish.

"You are... Bic..." Before Leylin could finish, his lips were already sealed. The door closed and the cloak slipped off, revealing an ample yet provocative and naked body.

"This is... What's happening?"

After Leylin recovered his senses, he was already lying on his own bed, with a girl continuously writhing on top of him.

Feeling the pleasure underneath his body, Leylin resisted his urges and temptation to touch Bicky's waist, which made her stop in her movements, "Why are you doing this?"

"Because... I can't think of a better way to console you! Leylin! Don't be upset! The loss is only temporary..."

Bicky pouted lovably.

"I..."

Leylin was extremely at a loss for words. If he could look in the mirror, he would definitely be putting on a wry smile.

He deliberately lost on purpose, yet he did not think that this silly girl Bicky would actually be fooled by him. Thinking that he would be

devastated, she offered herself to 'console' him.

At the same time, Leylin lost all his hopes towards the wanton practices in this world.

"Alright then! How about Fayle? Aren't you his girlfriend?"

Leylin asked.

"He wouldn't know. Besides, before marriage, I have my freedom!" Bicky revealed a coquettish smile and gradually started to thrust her waist again.

"So then, what happens after marriage?" Leylin was somewhat unhappy and quickened his motions.

The delicate beauty panted for a while before speaking with great effort, "Ma... After marriage, I have to guard my body for Fayle!"

Leylin then performed another deep penetrating thrust, which made Bicky moan with a shrill voice. She then collapsed in Leylin's embrace, as if all the bones in her body were removed.

"You are really... Alright then! After I have borne a child for Fayle and confirmed with a blood test, whenever you want it, you can look for me..."

Bicky's face blushed, and buried her head in Leylin's arms.

"What is this? I let Fayle wear a green hat in advance?"

Leylin thought at the back of his mind, as his hands involuntarily grabbed on Bicky's peaks of abundance, and began to move wildly.

In the morning, Leylin stroked the bare body of the girl, and he did not know whether to laugh or cry, "I never thought that I would become a friend with benefits...."

Chapter 88: The Bloodbath Begins

Looking at Bicky lying in his arms, Leylin's expression was complicated.

Regarding the fact that she threw herself at him the previous night, Leylin guessed that there were a few reasons behind it. First it was that Bicky had a favourable impression of him. As she did not have the heart to watch him be defeated, she came here to console him. The second was that this world's practices were generally more open, and Bicky wasn't a virgin before she did it with him - she had obviously had intercourse before. Finally, due to the bloodbath that was drawing closer, she was restless mentally, so her subconscious mind made the decision to do some stimulating activities and thus vent her frustration.

However, no matter what the reasons were, Bicky was a beauty, and Leylin was not on the losing end.

"Ah?!" Suddenly, the female body on Leylin shook, and sat upright.

"What time is it? It's actually 7 o'clock. Not good, I have to go to Mentor's experiment lab...."

Bicky hurriedly left the bed, and revealed that exquisite body once again to Leylin. She quickly did the buttons on her robes, before giving Leylin a light peck on his cheeks and then scurrying out of the room.

"Really...." Leylin looked at Bicky's departing figure and smiled wryly.

Very soon, the romance of last night was thrown to the back of Leylin's mind.

The secret plane bloodbath drew closer - it was one which none of the acolytes in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy could avoid.

Especially those fifth-grade acolytes with genius aptitude, they were the target of the opposing academies.

On the contrary, Leylin only had some talent in Potioneering; furthermore he had his senior Merlin to garner all unwanted attention, so he would not be in the limelight.

This was one of the reasons why Leylin never revealed his true abilities.

What followed next was Leylin holing up in his experiment lab, familiarising himself with the Fallen Star Pendant, and using the A.I. Chip to analyse the spell models. Also, he simulated those Rank 0 spells with high degrees of attack to be used in conjunction with his attack potions, in preparation for the secret plane bloodbath.

.....

The clouds were a patch of grey, and from time to time it drizzled, which made people feel like shadow was looming over them on the horizon.

Acolytes wearing grey robes were crammed into a field full of wild grasses. Each of them had a solemn expression, and their eyes brought possible vicious or vacant looks.

A few black and white robed official Magi stood before them.

Leylin stood somewhere at the corner of the acolytes and maintained a low profile, and now and then stole glances at the professors in front of him.

At the forefront of the professors was a large bloke - wearing black robes - who stood still, and subconsciously, strands of energy waves radiated out from his body which made Leylin's Spiritual Force circulation feel rather sluggish.

"That person is definitely the chairman of our Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, a Rank 2 Magus of the legends!"

Leylin bowed his head lower, not daring to raise his head again.

As for the desire to use the A.I. Chip to scan, Leylin buried it deep within his heart. The might of a Rank 2 Magus was extremely mysterious, and Leylin had no confidence in concealing this A.I. Chip from him.

Moreover, right now the A.I. Chip could not even break past the barriers of a Rank 1 Magus, so he needn't embarrass himself further.

"But... are we activating the secret plane right here?"

Leylin looked at the surroundings. Under the dimly-lit sky, the field was

dead silent, the rodents and lizards as if discovering a great battle was coming, had long since left the place.

Amongst the acolytes, Leylin even saw Bicky, Merlin, Nyssa, Jayden and the like.

Jayden stood at the forefront of the acolytes, and his face was extremely gloomy. There were thick, dark circles around his eyes, and it seemed that his condition was not too great.

Nyssa stood at the end of the crowd, and her whole figure was draped in grey robes, which was extremely low profile.

As for Bicky and Merlin, they were muttering to each other.

After seeing Leylin, Bicky even gave him a smile.

“Bicky has a few attack potions that I gave her, and she isn’t an important target, so most likely she’ll be alright!”

Leylin comforted himself.

“They’re here! They’re here!”

Suddenly, a ruckus was caused amongst the acolytes, which broke Leylin’s train of thoughts.

Leylin inhaled a mouthful of air and raised his head to look at the distance.

On the far horizon, a black spot suddenly appeared. With the black spot gradually approaching, its size, too, grew larger and larger.

When the black spot arrived in front of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s representatives, Leylin managed to see the full appearance of this creature.

It was a giant beetle, with eight long and sturdy legs. Each of them was over a dozen metres long. On top of the tiny head of the beetle, was a pair of compound eyes which was looking down on the masses of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

[The target has a layer of defensive barrier, and is primarily categorized

as a Rank 1 Magus. Host is recommended to stay far away from the target]

At this moment, the A.I. Chip's voice intoned, which made Leylin realise how formidable this beetle was.

"Sssii!"

From the giant beetle, a few drops of yellowish green saliva drooled from its mouth, which fell onto the ground corroding a large pit.

The surrounding acolytes backed away in unison. Their faces were pale, seemingly shocked by it.

"What are you afraid of? It's just an Abyss Steeled-Back Beetle!"

"Silence!"

Under the restrictions set by the professors in front, the acolytes then gradually recovered from their fright.

"Siley, your acolytes were actually frightened by my baby. It seems like their predicament isn't very good right now! Hahaha...."

A crisp male voice sounded, following which a white-robed, middle-aged Magus jumped off the back of the beetle. Although he had a middle-aged look, his brows were snow white.

"Hng!" Seemingly unhappy with the other party's taunt, the bald chairman Siley coldly harrumphed.

However, from the A.I. Chip's detection, Leylin saw that a formless energy wave was radiated from Siley's body towards the beetle.

"Wu!" "Arghh!" A few frightened voices came from the back of the beetle, and it seemed to be made by youngsters.

"Siley! You actually...." The white-browed Magus was in rage, and his brows suddenly turned red, as if blood was going to drip down from it.

"How is it?" Chairman Siley stepped forward as if being overbearing.

"That white-browed, middle-aged man should be the chairman of Sage Gotham's Hut. Although he is also a Rank 2 Magus, Chairman Siley is a Dark Magus, excelled in the art of combat, so his strength is definitely

stronger than White Brows. . . ”

Leylin’s eyes flashed.

Just when the acolytes thought that these two Chairmen were about to battle, a whizzing sound travelled from the sky.

An enormous horse carriage that stretched over a few dozen metres, with a pair of snow white wings on each side, gradually descended under the control of a few condors.

Bang!

The horse carriage landed steadily on the ground. The door opened, and a white-robed, golden-haired lady walked out from it.

“Guru, stop! Don’t forget we have signed an agreement!”

Listening to the golden-haired lady, Siley and Guru scoffed and returned back to their respective groups.

Behind the golden-haired lady, a group of acolytes came out from the horse carriage. Their bodies evidently radiated strong energy waves.

“Hehe! Siley, I hope your acolytes will be able to survive. Don’t let your academy turn into a real graveyard...”

White-Brows Guru sneered. Behind him, the beetle gradually folded its legs, which formed a flight of steps, where many acolytes stepped down from it.

The acolytes from both academies looked at Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s camp menacingly, as if the acolytes here were all preys.

“Most of them are Level 3 Acolyte, and there is a rare number of Level 2 Acolyte. As for Level 1 Acolyte, there isn’t any!”

Leylin’s heart tightened. Due to the weakening state of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the rules in the bloodbath were obviously not favourable to them.

Not only were they two against one, but the other side could let their Level 1 Acolyte be excluded from the bloodbath. Unlike Abyssal Bone

Forest Academy were all their acolytes had to enter.

These Level 1 Acolyte could only play the role of cannon fodder when they entered, and were absolutely of no further use.

“After this mandatory enlistment, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy will definitely be worse off!”

Leylin looked at the acolytes in his academy that were of 11-12 years of age, and sighed within his heart.

However, Leylin could not offer any assistance to them at all. At the very most, under the circumstances that his life wasn't threatened, he would do his best to help them.

Right now, he had something more important to tend to.

“A.I. Chip, assist in the recording!”

Right now Leylin was a Level 3 Acolyte and the A.I. Chip's ability increased too. Most of the Level 3 Acolyte could not escape the A.I. Chip's detection now.

Leylin picked out the acolytes who carried Magic Artifacts. No matter if it was his own side or the other, he recorded them down.

These people were the ones that he had to be mindful of during the bloodbath.

Listening to the provocative tone of the other party, Chairman Siley's face darkened. He waved his hands, “Enough of this nonsense, let us begin!”

“Since you have such sincerity, how could we bear to refuse your request?”

White-Brows Guru and the golden-haired lady smirked and nodded their heads, “Let us begin!”

Listening to their chairmen, the official Magi from the respective academies stepped forward and begin to retrieve many strange things from their sacks, robes or even within their bodies. After which, they began to set up a formation.

When they were finished with it, a strange magic formation was arranged on the ground.

“They are runes that make the foundation sturdy, linking up of energy and creating flames. I recognise some of these!” Leylin’s eyes flashed, and recorded down all of these formations with the A.I. Chip.

As for the three chairmen, after their staff had finished preparing the formation, they each stepped forward and withdrew 3 crimson coloured scrolls.

“With my name, Siley, I summon the Will of Battle which is roving around the wilderness, and activate the glorious and deathly flight of stairs....”

The 3 chairmen chanted and simultaneously tore the scrolls in their hands apart.

Bang! Crimson lightning continuously thundered down, on the area above where the 3 crimson scrolls were torn, a huge opening suddenly appeared from the void.

Whoosh! Countless thunder and lightning appeared from within, and noises of explosion and whistling came from the opening.

Dozens of seconds later, the void calmed down.

“This is a secret plane which is now an abandoned resources point. Any organisms and resources of value in it were scoured clean by us. Right now, it will become your battlefield....”

Chapter 89: Entering The Secret Plane

Chairman Siley turned around and said to Leylin and the group of acolytes, "You are all the most outstanding students of my Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, who have experienced deaths with blood and fire. You are not just a flower that is nurtured in a greenhouse, but ferocious young lions. I want you to seek your preys, stalk them, and ambush them. Finally, rip them to shreds!"

After finishing the last sentence, Chairman Siley's eyes turned a crimson red, and a blood red light was radiated, making his seem seemed somewhat contorted.

Leylin's face was extremely solemn, and he did not know how to react to this anymore.

Following which, the chairman promised many different rewards. They were all involving precious resources and advanced information that would be given as a bounty whenever the opposing acolytes were slain. This made the acolytes face gleam with greed.

"As per rumours, our chairman is indeed an extremely aggressive person!" Leylin thought, "I wonder how long this group of people will last?"

On the other side, the chairman of Sage Gotham's Hut and Whitewoods Castle were also giving their speech. Although their acolytes were cheering loudly and nodding their heads vigorously, Leylin was in glee.

The academies in the South Coast had been influenced by the styles of their respective headmasters. Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was advocating a more bloodthirsty and theory of the law of the jungle. Overall, it was leaning towards the side of Dark Magi.

As for the two opposing factions, they were obviously leaning more towards Light Magi types. Although many acolytes were already Level 3 Acolyte, Leylin did not see the astuteness and craftiness in their eyes. Many of them even seemed innocent, which was extremely similar to the acolytes that were in Extreme Night City.

“If it’s this way, there is still a chance!”

Leylin’s eyes gleamed. His target was only to gather enough contribution points in exchange for Grine Water, so he had no reason to create more trouble for himself.

As for the price of Grine Water, it was 50 contribution points. This is to say, Leylin had to kill 5 Level 3 Acolytes on the other side, or even more Level 2 Acolytes, before gathering enough points.

“The acolytes do not have the defensive force field that an official Magus has. If only I have time, I can analyse and choose my opponents, giving me enough contribution points!”

Leylin sized up the opposing acolytes and eyed some of the Level 3 Acolytes who obviously had low energy waves.

They will be his prey!

“Alright! This secret plane will hold on for 3 days. In these 3 days, you will all be transported to different places in the secret plane. Protect your chest badges well. They are proof of your contributions and contains information on the return route!”

Siley waved his hands, and the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes formed a long line, entering the entrance of the secret plane in an orderly fashion.

Under the mediation of Lighthouse of the Night, it obtained a few benefits. For example, they could enter the secret plane first, giving them a territorial advantage.

However, Leylin understood that in front of his opponents’ immense force, this little benefit for Abyssal Bone Forest Academy is simply a joke!

The acolytes on both sides numbered almost the same, at 200 or so. However, the amount of Level 3 Acolyte on their side was at least 5 to 6 times more than what Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had.

As for the acolytes of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, not to mention that most of them perished in the war, many of them could not make it back in

time. Some even betrayed the academy and were killed while escaping. Such a result made Abyssal Bone Forest Academy inferior to the enemy in terms of elite forces.

Under these circumstances, the chairman of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy still provoked the enemy in such a fashion. This made Leylin convinced of a rumour - The cause of this war was exactly the provocation by this Chairman Siley.

As Leylin pondered on, he followed the acolyte in front of him into the secret plane.

.....

Weng!

After entering the plane, Leylin's sight turned black. When he regained his senses, he was already standing on an unfamiliar plot of land.

He felt dizzy, as if there were millions of bees flapping their wings. Leylin's face contorted, almost puking.

[A negative effect is discovered on the Host. The symptoms are dizziness and vomiting. The primary diagnosis is that it is the aftereffect from travelling through spatial areas!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned. Leylin slapped his forehead, and opened his water bottle, splashing the cold water on his face, which made him feel much better.

Looking the surroundings, what entered his sight were some small trees and shrubberies. There were always a few unknown fruit trees grown. On them were a type of purple-red fruit, and was slightly hairy on the surface.

"A.I. Chip, scan the surroundings!"

Leylin ordered. Immediately, a light blue 3D image was projected in front of Leylin's eyes.

"There doesn't seem to be any danger!" Leylin nodded his head and chanted an incantation.

Along with the chanting noise, Leylin's face took on a morphing process.

His eyes became larger, his lips paler, his hair changed colour, as if a totally different person. Even his height was shorter by a few inches.

What was surprising was that after this Rank 0 spell, the energy waves from Leylin's body gradually weakened. It regressed from a Level 3 Acolyte to that of a Level 1 Acolyte slowly.

[Shapeshifting spell (Modified), able to change the height and appearance of a person, even the energy waves radiation! Consumption: 3 Magic Power, 3 Spiritual Force!]

Shapeshifting spell was a spell that Leylin specially chose back when he was leaving the academy.

After he advanced into a Level 3 Acolyte, he managed to reach the requirements for the A.I. Chip to make modifications to it. Back in Extreme Night City, he had already completed the modification for this Shapeshifting spell.

Of course, no matter how much the A.I. Chip modified it, the Shapeshifting spell was after all a Rank 0 spell. It could only conceal his energy from acolytes, but not the detection from official Magi. If not, Leylin could have used the spell to make himself be a Level 2 Acolyte when he returned.

Moreover, the Shapeshifting spell could only slightly lower the energy waves, allowing him to pass off as a low-level acolyte. It could not be used to conceal as a regular human or official Magus.

However, the bloodbath in the secret plane was only for acolytes. So the disguise would not be found out by other acolytes.

"It's done!" Leylin looked at his reflection in a mirror.

A blonde male acolyte, with the energy wave of a Level 1 Acolyte. Under this state, even if it was Bicky or Merlin, they wouldn't be able to recognise him.

"However, a person's habit cannot be changed so easily. I had better avoid meeting any familiar people. "

Leylin's eyes flashed, and he disappeared into the shrubbery.

.....

As for other places in the secret plane, many acolytes had already begun to face off and there were several explosive yet short-lived battles.

Beside a small pool, a black haired acolyte with a black cloak used lightning to obliterate an Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolyte into ashes.

On the other side of the plane, Jayden's expression darkened, and suddenly countless vines shot out from his body, wrapping around an opposing acolyte from Whitewoods Castle into a ball of vines. Along with the contraction of the vine, fresh blood seeped through from the gaps of the vine, falling drop by drop on the floor.

Battles like these happened constantly throughout the plane. On the whole, the Level 3 Acolytes from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy has an advantage in 1 versus 1 combat. As for other Level 1 and 2 acolytes, if they meet with these Level 3 Acolytes they would be killed immediately.

A pockmarked brown haired acolyte wore the uniform of Sage Gotham's Hut. His eyes were not big, but it was filled with anxiety and wariness, as he continuously scanned the surroundings.

"Damn it! I was actually sent here. The distance from the gathering point with the academy is too far..."

The acolyte hurried his step as he berated incessantly.

Peng!

Suddenly, a few large holes appeared from the ground. Yellow brown mud spikes emerged from it. In that instant, it pierced through that acolyte's grey robes and inner armour, rupturing a huge hole in the stomach area.

With a look of anguish and disbelief, the acolyte's eyes were drained of life gradually with the blood and innards flowing out from his body.

A dozen minutes later, the grasses in the surrounding shook. Leylin took off his green costume and walked towards the corpse of the acolyte.

He crouched down and retrieved a red badge from the acolyte's chest.

"It's only a Level 2 Acolyte! Value is 3 contribution points!"

Leylin kept the red badge in his robes. The various academies had different badges. Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's was black throughout in colour, while the ones from Sage Gotham's Hut were red. Naturally, the badge from Whitewoods Castle was white. Moreover, there were different shapes for the different levels of acolytes.

"A.I. Chip! Bring forth my stats!"

[Beep! Leylin Farlier, Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.7, Spiritual Force: 8(13.2), Magical Power: 8(13) - (Magical Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

"A Shapeshifting spell and Ground Spear has already consumed 5 points of my Magic Power and Spiritual Force. I have to conserve my Spiritual Force and try to use potions to battle!"

Leylin's eyes flashed.

This bloodbath between academies was not a competition or anything of that sort. According to the latest information received earlier, Leylin could already confirm that the opposing academies had chosen a few gathering points. It was for their acolytes to hurry to the area and then launch a joint attack on Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

As for the acolytes in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, their strength was greatly diminished. They could not agree on gathering points, if not they might be eradicated in one fell swoop. They could only scatter and fight their enemies.

Leylin could already foresee that on the very first day, the Level 3 Acolyte in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy would be able to kill just a few acolytes of the enemy, and obtain a clear advantage. Once the enemies have gathered together, however, they would begin to hunt the acolytes from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy similar to chasing after wild ducks.

Once he thought of the scenario where the magic spell formation set by the acolytes - when completed - could cover a large area and hone in on

the acolytes, Leylin's scalp tingled.

“I could only rely on now to obtain more contribution points! If not as the time passes the difficulty will increase!”

Leylin's expression turned gloomy.

Chapter 90: Laying Traps

The bloodbath situation was forced on Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, which meant that the acolytes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy were in a disadvantageous situation.

And the acolytes belonging to the two enemy camps would certainly chase them as if they were hunting and killing their prey.

“Anyway, even if it was an astute hunter, if he left behind a single prey, then it is possible for the situation to be reversed - where the hunter becomes the hunted!”

Leylin licked his chapped lips, exposing a malevolent grin.

Now, the three academies' acolytes were scattered within the secret plane and the two enemy groups' acolytes had also not gathered. This was certainly a fortunate timing for Leylin to gather sufficient contribution points!

Once the enemy group gathered, then Leylin would not have any more chances.

“Let's do this! Today, I must defeat and kill as many of the enemy's acolytes as possible and scrape together enough of contribution points. After that, depending on AI Chip's guidance, I will stand aside and avoid the majority of the enemy...”

After deciding on his strategy, Leylin hurriedly looted the Magic Crystals and resources on the acolyte's body, leaving the scene.

Two hours later after Leylin left, another acolyte came to the scene.

“It's Greg!” After seeing the corpse on the floor, the acolyte's pupils shrank.

He came from the same academy as Greg. Seeing his comrade lying on the ground, this acolyte's expression turned pale white, as if wanting to puke.

He muttered, “Too dangerous! This mission is too dangerous. Greg and I

are only Level 2 Acolyte, we have come to this secret plane purely to die! If I knew earlier, I wouldn't have taken up this mission!"

Regrets filled the face of this acolyte.

"Looking at this wound, it should be a heavy physical attack with an Earth element spell. The caster should be a Level 3 Acolyte! To deal with a Level 2 Acolyte, he actually used such a despicable method. What a low-life...."

It was not scary if the enemy was strong, but what was scary is if the enemy was strong and shameless!

After understanding this reasoning the acolyte felt his scalp tingle. He felt as if a pair of bloodthirsty and greedy eyes was eyeing him from the shrubbery, locking down on its prey.

"No way, I have to leave now!"

He then bowed towards the corpse on the floor, "I'm sorry. Although we used to be good friends, I am unable to give you a proper burial.... Or it may be that the destiny of magicians was to die along the path to the pursuit of truth!"

The acolyte made a prayer for his friend and prepared to leave.

"Je je! What a cold-blooded person, not even caring about his comrade's corpse!"

A female voice sounded from the air above.

"Who. . . who is that?" The acolyte jumped back several metres like a rabbit, and in his hands, there was a black scroll tightly gripped.

"Haha! Look at him, like a pathetic bunny that has nowhere to escape in front of a predator!"

The girl's voice sounded again. The crown of a nearby treetop shuddered, and a grey robed girl appeared in front of the acolyte.

This female acolyte wore the uniform of Whitewoods Castle, and the acolyte who was prepared to fight for his life heaved a sigh of relief.

“Hng! Trash!”

Another male voice appeared from the surrounding, and a young man walked out from the shadows. He wore the insignia from Sage Gotham's Hut, and his right hand was silver in colour throughout. It radiated a mellow yet suave colour and reflected the shadows of the nearby shrubbery.

“This appearance?”

The acolyte's hand trembled, and the scroll dropped on the ground.
“Silver-Claw Saurun! You are Silver-Claw Saurun!”

Silver-Claw Saurun was considered one of the most vicious existence in the circle of Sage Gotham's Hut's acolytes. Rumours have it that for a piece of ingredient needed for an experiment, he had massacred a whole village of regular humans !

Although this was only a rumour, but this acolyte did witness the way Saurun treated his enemies - That was a devilish existence!

Although Sage Gotham's Hut was a Light Magi faction, but there were bound to be some talented acolyte with outstanding abilities in battle. Evidently, this Saurun was one of them.

Saurun did not bother about his junior who was frightened off his wits, and immediately walked to the corpse to inspect it.

“A very shrewd and ruthless method! Looking at the distance, the enemy should have activated the spell 20 metres away. This distance is the limit of Ground Spear! The enemy possesses an extremely high talent in his ability to use and calculate his Rank 0 spells from it.”

Saurun licked his silver right hand, giving off a sinister grin.

“He is mine! I will hunt and kill him personally, and let the world know the consequences of incurring the wrath of Sage Gotham's Hut!”

“As for you!” Saurun looked at the trembling junior distastefully.

“Scram!”

“Yes! Yes, sir!” The acolyte nodded his head and hurriedly scampered

away like a frightened little deer. In the blink of an eye, he traversed over several hundred metres, and even used a hastening spell on his body.

Seeing the figure of the leaving acolyte, the girl smirked, “What a useless trash! If not for the agreement between our academies, I would have killed him long ago!”

“Compared to him, I have a high interest in this acolyte from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!”

Saurun licked his lips, and the crimson red tongue seemed to be like that of a snake’s, twisting and writhing. “I am already anxious to know how the fresh blood of that acolyte tastes like!”

.....

“A.I. Chip! Maximise the detection area!”

Leylin gives his command as he followed and ran along a white cobblestone path.

In the secret plane, the A.I. Chip’s ability was also affected. Although the detection area has become smaller, it was still extremely handy for warning and scouting the way ahead.

A light blue 3D image appeared in front of Leylin’s eyes.

In the map, the white cobblestone path seemed to be paved in the shape of a rune, winding its way through a circular garden in the middle of it.

Moreover, the A.I. Chip caught traces of mild radiation on the ground here. This means that the magicians who had used this place before had operated it well, and even the soil had gotten affected.

However, there was obviously nothing of value. It was evident that before this secret plane was activated; all the resources had already been ferreted out.

“It seems like it is rather difficult to get lucky by stumbling over some magician’s inheritance!”

Leylin shrugged his shoulders and continued walking.

[Beep! Human creatures ahead, determined as acolytes. Numbers: 3!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned. Leylin's eyes flashed, and he secretly tailed them.

This trio was formed by 2 male and 1 female acolyte. The male acolyte in the centre had obviously reached the cultivation of a Level 3 Acolyte.

At this moment, this small group was heading towards the garden.

"Do we really have to take such a risk?" The male acolyte who was behind began to grumble. "We had better still gather with the other acolytes! As long as we activate that spell formation, then there is nothing to be fearful of...."

"Shut up!" The male acolyte in the middle did not turn his head, "If you go together with the main body, how much contribution points can you get? I have made enquiries about this place before. This was a deserted secret plane of magicians before! Secret plane! If we are able to dig up any remnants, then our lives in future would be without a worry. Also, we might even be able to advance into official Magi!"

After saying the last line, the acolyte in the middle show signs of longing and jealousy.

"If you are unwilling to, then you can very well return! Look at Marie, she hasn't said a word!"

"Alright! Alright!"

The acolyte behind stopped talking, seemingly agreeing with the logic of the acolyte in the middle.

Afterall, he and Marie were Level 2 Acolytes. Their standing was below that of the Level 3 Acolyte in the middle.

"That's right, we also need to...." The acolyte in the middle suddenly pointed ahead without finishing his sentence, "Look quickly! What's that?"

On a patch of empty ground in front of them, a grey robed Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolyte was looking back at them with frightened eyes. In his eyes, there was even a purple flower with spikes. From the centre of

the flower, there were several strands of feelers which extended to the ground.

Seeing the group of three come over, this Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolyte was obviously frightened as he ran away quickly.

“An Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolyte! A Level 1 Acolyte at that! He’s carrying a... Wolf Whisker Flower?”

The acolyte’s mouth in the middle gaped open and it seemed like several eggs could be stuffed in it.

“Kill it! The Wolf Whisker Flower’s is a valuable ingredient worth close to 1000 Magic Crystals!”

The Level 3 Acolyte roared and gave chase directly.

Xiu Xiu! The Level 2 Acolyte behind him was even quicker. A gust of green whirlwind appeared around his body, increasing his speed by multiple folds as he rushed towards the direction of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolyte.

“Argh! Damn it! Did I not say not to use it until the most critical moment?”

The Level 3 Acolyte slapped his forehead, and then he hugged Marie with an arm, “Hold tight, I’m increasing my speed!”

“Put down the Wolf Whisker Flower!” The Level 2 Acolyte spared no effort in chasing and shouting until his throat turned hoarse from the excitement.

“This is only a Level 1 Acolyte. I will definitely be able to kill him. The Wolf Whisker Flower!”

At this moment, a seed of insatiable greed and longing sprouted in the young acolyte’s heart.

“What do you want to do?”

Just when the young acolyte’s thoughts went astray, the leader brought Marie and caught up to him.

“No! Nothing!” Seeing the cold gaze in the leader’s eyes, the young acolyte seemed to have his face splashed by cold water. All the desires disappeared in a flash.

“Don’t let him hide inside the shrubberies!” The Level 3 Acolyte commanded.

“Alright!”

The young acolyte steadied his heart and chased the acolyte in front of them.

100 metres!

50 metres!

30 metres!

20 metres!

10 metres!

The distance between both parties got smaller, until the point where the young acolyte could see his enemy’s frightened face.

“Wolf Whisker Flower! The Wolf Whisker Flower is ours now! Even if we divide it by 3, there are at least several hundreds of them!”

The young acolyte held a fervent gaze, and looking at the escaping acolyte in front of him, in the same way as he would to innumerable Magic Crystals.

Just as the trio caught up with the escaping acolyte, an explosion occurred.

Boom!!!

Chapter 91: Discovering Jayden

A violent explosion sounded, and the bright yellow tongue of the flames spread in all directions, burning the nearby ground to scorch dark.

At the middle of the explosion, at this moment, there was a pit which was 1 metre deep and several metres wide.

Dust and mud flew up, and the surrounding earth had black smears of blood, broken limbs and internal organs were strewn across which had lost most of its original appearance. After costing Leylin some effort, he finally managed to rummage through them and picked up a few badges.

“A Level 3 Acolyte and two Level 2 Acolyte! A pretty good reward! Using an explosive potion as a triggering trap is indeed useful!”

Leylin was rather satisfied with his battle results. This was one of his few plans - using the Shapeshifting spell to pass off as a Level 1 Acolyte, baiting and luring enemy acolytes into a trap.

With the detection of the A.I. Chip, several times Leylin’s ‘hunt’ was flawless, and did not suffer from any interference.

“Almost there!” Leylin kept the badges well.

He had to collect enough badges before the enemy united as a whole, and then hide until the battle was over.

For this goal, after Leylin used the Shapeshifting spell and Ground Spear once to kill an acolyte, he began to avoid using his own Spiritual Force and Magic Power. Instead, he relied on potions and scrolls to battle, preserving his condition to the fullest in times of need.

After cleaning up the area slightly, Leylin hurriedly left the place.

Not long later, a male and female acolyte appeared in the vicinity.

Looking at the obvious traces of an explosion, and the bits and remains of the Whitewoods Castle uniform, this time, the female acolyte’s face darkened.

“I want to kill him! Then hang his head on my horse carriage for 100

days!”

The female acolyte clenched her teeth.

“You will have this chance very soon! We are getting closer and closer to this conniving acolyte....”

Silver-Clawed Saurun half knelt on the ground, and picked up a stalk of grass with sludge on it, before placing it into his mouth.

“However, I admire his courage. He actually dares to obstruct our acolytes!”

“Enough of the nonsense! Have you found him?”

The female acolyte asked.

“Over there!” Saurun chewed on the blade of grass and closed his eyes for a moment. He then pointed to a direction and the both of them immediately headed in that direction.

In a dense forest, on a withered tree with three branches sat a grey robed figure. His stature was rather short, as he looked up at the sky.

“Dusk is coming!” Leylin muttered.

In the secret plane, there was neither the sun nor the moon, and not even any stars. However, the peculiar thing was that the bright sky would be strewn with white rays of light. At night, these rays of light would disappear, which distinguished between morning and night.

It seems like there was a layer of a barrier which blocked the sun and moon at the same time.

“After a whole day, I have only received these much!”

Leylin counted the contribution points he had gotten.

In his hands rested 6 badges. Amongst these, 5 of them were from Level 2 Acolytes, and 1 from a Level 3 Acolyte, which was the contribution of the trio’s leader from before.

It was extremely easy to distinguish between a Level 2 Acolyte and Level 3 Acolyte due the shape.

“According to the academy rules, an enemy Level 2 Acolyte is worth 3 contribution points while a Level 3 Acolyte is worth 10 contribution points. Those famous acolytes are separately categorised. Right now, I have at most 25 contribution points, just half of what I need to exchange for the Grine Water.”

Leylin’s face was rather solemn.

Although Leylin had gotten 25 contribution points in a day, it was because that the enemy acolytes were scattered across the secret plane and have not yet gathered.

After a day and night, the acolytes in the other two factions would have definitely gathered. After forming a large army they would surround the acolytes of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

Under those circumstances, Leylin could barely protect his life, let alone obtain more badges from them.

Under the ordeal from the war previously, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s casualty was extremely disastrous. They simply did not have time to nurture a new batch of elite forces to go against the opposing two factions.

Moreover, if one walks the dark path often they will meet a ghost someday. Leylin did not believe that his simple trap could always work.

[TL Note: Refers to people who, when they do bad things often, will definitely have a bad ending]

“If it really isn’t plausible, I might have to give up!”

Leylin’s expression was determined. He was not someone to throw away his life for a little benefit.

Even if his will was to become the king in the Magus World, which was with the prerequisite of preserving his life. If not, even if he had everything but lost his life, what was the purpose of it?

“A.I. Chip! Maintain detection area! Report immediately if there are any problems!”

After issuing the A.I. Chip the role of a sentry, he dug a hole in the ground behind the tree for disguise purposes, before sleeping inside the hollow of the tree.

The acolytes of the 3 academies had to stay inside the secret plane for 3 days and 2 nights. Although the physical weariness can be overcome by various potions and methods, the mental fortitude was not that simple to replenish.

Thankfully, Leylin had the A.I. Chip, and could let it act as a sentry. It would do a great job with its ability.

Darkness blanketed the trees, time to time there were the cries of little worms.

In the hollow of the tree, Leylin shut his eyes. First, he meditated, before falling into deep slumber.

This was not a silent night. In the secret plane, various battles unfolded. Many colourful and enrapturing Rank 0 spells were cast by the acolytes. Ambushes, reverse traps, beauty traps and the shrewd plotting were endless. Many young acolytes left their lives in this secret plane.

Of course, all these had nothing to do with Leylin.

The second day, when the sky was filled with radiant light, the hollow of a tree shook, and a huge hole appeared. Within it, Leylin walked out.

The power of nature was immense. After a night, many traces of blood diminished, and the various plants and animal tracks covered a huge amount of the intense battle marks left on the ground.

Leylin casually stretched and looked at the hollow of the large tree.

Leylin remembered clearly that he only made this opening last night. However, it was gradually mending back into whole. Leylin even discovered a few green coloured sprouts nearby the opening.

“It seems like the flora and fauna in this magical plane has vitality much higher than the physical world!”

Leylin stroked his chin and stretched his hand to pick a budding sprout

with morning dew on it. "A.I. Chip! Scan the composition and record!"

[Beep! Comparing to the plant database. An abnormality is found!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned. In front of Leylin was a green and light blue image overlapping. Moreover, in the centre of the image, was a red area that seemed like an octopus which was spreading its tentacles.

"Record composition!" Leylin ordered.

"Who knows if there'll be a use in future?" Leylin comforted himself, and then began to pick a few more plants and herbs for recording purposes.

[Warning! Warning! There is an extremely strong radiation coming from 523m in the Southeast. Primarily determined as acolytes using Rank 0 spells!]

Just when Leylin was picking out a green leaf with red veins, the alert from the A.I. Chip sounded.

"A chance!" Leylin's eyes flashed.

Sage Gotham's Hut and Whitewoods Castle were allies. Their acolytes wouldn't fight with the other, so if there was any battle, it definitely involved Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes!

"With the A.I. Chip detection, I'm not afraid of being cornered if I am more cautious!"

Leylin patted his chest. Under the grey robes inner layer, a solid pendant lay against his chest.

"Or maybe, it's time to test the might of the Fallen Star Pendant!"

Leylin whipped his grey robes up and concealed himself as he headed towards where the battle was.

Boom!

As he got closer, Leylin could feel the intensity of the radiation from the spells. This degree could only be produced by a Level 3 Acolyte. Moreover, it belonged to one of the stronger acolytes.

Towards the enemy Level 3 Acolyte which had a chance of advancing into a Magus before 20, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy opened a sky-high reward for it. They bumped the value up from 20 to 100 contribution points.

This is to say, if Leylin managed to pull this feat off, not only could he exchange it for Grine Water, he might even be able to exchange for a Rank 1 defensive spell model.

However, Leylin's legs halted, having a strong desire suddenly to leave.

To him, one Grine Water was enough for him to use in his experiments. The rest were just unnecessary, and it was not worth it to fight against these Level 3 Acolytes.

Moreover, there was another concern on his mind

Although the bounties of those popular Level 3 Acolyte were high, there were always professors behind them. Moreover, their respective professors would have definitely spent countless efforts on them.

Even if Leylin used his toe to think, he could definitely ascertain that the Magi have laid spells on their apprentices. The moment he kills one of them, his appearance and other information would be known by the Magus.

In front of an official Magus, the Shapeshifting spell was obsolete!

Even if Chairmen Siley protected Leylin after the bloodbath, he did not want to be drawing all the unwanted attentions to him and even be marked by an official Magus.

All in all, the risk was too great, yet the benefit was too little. Leylin would rather look for some Level 2 Acolyte or weary Level 3 Acolyte to kill than to invoke the wrath of those geniuses.

He did not hesitate to turn around.

Suddenly, a male voice sounded, "Haha! Jayden! You have finally landed in my hands!"

"Jayden?!" Leylin's footsteps halted, and turned back.

The location of the battle was in the middle of some trees. And the trees right now have already been destroyed, showing a large clearing.

Leylin stealthily hid to watch the battle.

In the centre of the clearing, Jayden who wore a hunter's attire was half kneeling on the ground. There were even vines coiling around him, acting as armour.

In front of him, a black-robed, male figure let out a maniacal laughter.

Chapter 92: Striking

The black-haired acolyte had a silver chain coiled around his waist, and from time to time there were blue lightning sparks igniting between his hands, making a crackling noise.

“Haha... Jayden, I mentioned it before. One day you will land in my hands!”

The black-haired acolyte laughed wildly. With the wave of his hand, a blue streak of lightning faster than supersonic directly landed on Jayden’s armour of vines.

Sssii!

Jayden was sent flying, as if a train had knocked into him, and crashed onto the ground forming a large hole.

“How is it? Where is the arrogance back then when you stole my piece of lightning core?”

The black-haired acolyte taunted, before casting another spell at Jayden. It opened a gap on Jayden’s body.

The green vines had a huge opening now, revealing Jayden’s skin. A large patch of his skin was charred, and Leylin could faintly catch a whiff of barbeque smell.

“Don’t think a broken Magic Artifact can save you!”

It seemed like the hatred the black-haired acolyte had for Jayden was not small, as his glee in seeking revenge was shown on his face.

“A.I. Chip! Inspect Jayden!”

Leylin did not dare to scan the black-haired acolyte and chose the severely injured Jayden as his target.

[Beep! Jayden. Strength: 1.9, Agility: 2.7, Vitality: 2.1 (3.5), Spiritual Force: 3 (10.8). Status: Mild injury. Paralysis!]

No matter how much the opponent taunted him, Jayden did not speak a single word. He only used an icy gaze to stare at his enemy.

“Not good! Jayden is also a Level 3 Acolyte now with a Magic Artifact, but he actually could not beat the opponent!”

Leylin’s thoughts quickly surmised.

Leylin was attracted by Jayden’s name to this place out of curiosity but did not intend to risk his life for him.

To tell the truth, if Jayden’s enemy was not strong, Leylin would have struck as Jayden had disclosed information to him previously. But now the enemy’s strength seemed to be extremely strong, and Leylin was somewhat hesitant.

“A.I. Chip! Inspect the target’s data and calculate the winning rate in a battle!”

Leylin ordered.

[Beep! Mission establishing, beginning fight simulation....]

The A.I. Chip calculated rapidly and came to a conclusion. [Host’s winning rate is 77%. Possible scenario: Death of the target, light damage to the host!]

“This probability is rather low!” Leylin’s brows furrowed.

“Look! There are really people there!”

Just as Leylin was hesitant, the voice of a female travelled over. It was extremely familiar, and Leylin even heard the alluring pants of its owner not too long ago.

On the other side of the battlefield, Bicky and another female acolyte came over.

“It’s Bicky! Why would she come here?”

Leylin inhaled deeply. He suddenly felt that things were going to be extremely troublesome.

“There is someone fighting. Ah! Senior Jayden!”

The female acolyte with Bicky recognised Jayden, and she seemed to have some affection for him. Once she saw him injured, she hurried over.

“A girl? Your friend?”

The black-haired acolyte's brows furrowed and suddenly clapped. “You brought me shame by stealing my possession. Today I will return it in multiple folds to you. For instance, claiming this woman right before your eyes....”

The black-haired acolyte sniggered lecherously, and his hands moved and fluttered like a butterfly.

Sssii!

The blue lightning of snake continuously formed on his hands and transformed into a metal chain. It pierced the fireball casted hurriedly by the female acolyte, and knocked her to the ground.

“Molly!” Bicky was frightened, and she hurried over too.

“This idiot!”

Leylin helplessly shook his hand as he got up.

He still harboured some feelings for Bicky, and would take a risk for her under the circumstances that his life was not threatened.

Of course, his largest assurance was the winning rate that the A.I. Chip provided him!

If the A.I. Chip's calculation did not give him such a winning rate, he might have chosen to leave. After advancing into a Rank 1 Magus he would then return and seek revenge for Bicky.

Furthermore, Leylin was completely unwilling to help if he had to pay the price of being critically injured or even death to win.

On the other hand, if it were only some mild injuries, Leylin felt that Bicky deserved his help.

“Actually, deep down I am an extremely rational, not to mention unfeeling and apathetic person!”

Leylin scoffed at himself and hurriedly moved, closing the distance of a dozen metres and held onto Bicky.

“Don’t go over!”

“Who... Are you?” Bicky gave a puzzled stare to the guy in front of her.

Leylin’s Shapeshifting spell was still in effect and even his voice was altered through potions. Therefore, Bicky did not recognise Leylin at all.

“A person who has come to save you!” Leylin’s voice was hoarse, and directly locked gazes with the black-haired acolyte.

“An interesting insect. It was you who was hiding in the corner earlier, huh?”

The black-haired acolyte clenched his fist, as blue lightning coiled around it, emitting sparks every now and then.

A few bolts of electricity were shot into the ground, and each exploded, creating many small holes. The shattered stones and mud flew up beside Leylin, and were blocked by his acolyte’s robes and soon fell back to the ground.

“An electric element acolyte and it also seems like his affinity towards it is rather high!”

Leylin gradually withdrew the cross blade hung on his waist, “This will be a tough battle that I never had before!”

To prevent Bicky from recognising him, he could not use some common methods used by Potion Masters. He could only use those that he learnt when he left the academy.

“However, this is also the best chance to test my abilities! Back then in Extreme Night City, Murphy and the rest were all people who had retired, and their battle abilities were rubbish! As for the acolytes in the market, I could not strike, if not I would have become their sworn enemy!”

And this acolyte in front of him was obviously strong in his academy.

Leylin licked his lips and suddenly felt a strong battle desire surging from his chest and spreading to his four limbs. He could even hear the blood which was rapidly coursing, and made his eyes a little bloodshot.

This was a man’s hot bloodedness and desire for battle!

“Haha... Look what I found? Merely a Level 1 Acolyte who dares to draw a sword against me?”

The black-haired acolyte sneered and his expression became colder and more resolute, “Kiddo! I will give you one last chance. Hurry and kneel to the revered Lord Torash and admit your wrongdoing, and beg for my magnanimity! On account of my good mood, I may even pardon your sins....”

Shing!

In an instant, a silver arc of light flashed. It crossed the distance of a dozen metres and struck at the black haired Torash.

The silver arc of light materialised into a cross blade which brought on a heavy killing intent. The aura emitted from it even pressed down on the grasses.

The black-haired Torash had a startled expression. Suddenly, several green runes formed by lightning appeared underneath his leather shoes and crept to his thighs.

As if under some stimulation, Torash jumped backed several metres and avoided the attack.

Bang! The cross blade landed and slashed a cross shape hole on the ground.

The grey shadow flashed, and Leylin appeared at the original position of the black-haired acolyte. He gripped the cross blade in his hands and put on a regretful expression.

With some lingering fear, Torash touched his face and felt a gash, which was several centimetres deep, on it.

Although Leylin’s attack earlier did not strike the opponent directly, the force it brought already caused a gash on his face.

“So fast! If not for the hastening lightning rune my professor gave me, I might have been a corpse already!”

Very soon the fear subsided from Torash’s face and it turned into a

contorted expression of rage.

“You... You actually dare to harm the mighty Lord Torash, I’m going to kill you!”

However, his rage did not muddle his mind. Although Torash’s expression showed that he couldn’t wait to kill Leylin, he retrieved a scroll from his waist sack.

“I admit that your speed is extremely fast. You should, at least, have the physical ability of a Knight, right? But so what? Although a Knight’s body is stronger than a regular human and is not afraid of steel swords and large axes, it is just meaningless under a magician’s spell!”

Sssii! Torash pulled the scroll open, and an icy cold spell was activated, covering the whole of the battlefield.

Countless white mist condensed in the air, turning into ice and spread across the land.

The surrounding temperature decreased by dozens of degrees. Bicky pulled the friend on the ground to the back of Leylin. Her body shivered as she looked at Leylin’s back, obviously grateful and puzzled at the same time.

Although she had no memory of this person, Bicky had a strong feeling that she knew this strong person who had suddenly appeared in front of her.

“Who exactly, are you?” Bicky looked at Leylin’s figure, her expression complicated.

At this moment, Torash’s scroll had finished its activation. With him at the heart of it, the domain of several hundred metres was covered by frost. There were even a layer of snow and ice on the trees and plants as if it was the coldest period of winter.

[Beep! Host is affected by frost. Speed is estimated to decrease by 43%]
The unfeeling A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“No matter how fast a Knight is, as long as his speed is rendered useless,

then it would just be a sitting duck, waiting on a dining table to be feasted on!”

Looking at Leylin’s figure whose hair and brows have already been frozen in ice, Torash smirked. “I can slightly alter this spell. The frost on you is definitely more at a lower temperature than the two girls. How is it?”

“A pity!”

Leylin felt rather regretful in his heart. Looking at the spell formation of this acolyte’s shoes and the scroll, he knew that Torash had a high attainment in spell formation. If not, it would mean that his professor was an expert in this area, to be able to customise this spell for Torash.

Leylin really wanted to sit down and discuss alchemy and runes with him, but alas, he was just being delusional.

Chapter 93: Activation

Leylin clenched his fist tightly – the hand grasping the sword hilt was clearly somewhat stiff.

His face appeared pale and petrified as if he had gotten frostbite.

One must know that Leylin had a Vitality of 3.7. If it was any regular human, they would have long since frozen to death!

“I don’t have any intention to go against you. As long as you let go of those two girls, I will leave immediately!”

Leylin used the cross blade and pointed at Bicky’s direction, in return for her grateful gaze.

“No! Get him to release senior Jayden, if not I’m not leaving!”

The girl beside Bicky, who was saved, still maintained her resolve.

Leylin rolled his eyes, if not for Bicky; did she really think that he would appear in the name of justice? Moreover, looking at the situation again, Jayden had apparently deeply offended the other party previously, so why would he let go of Jayden so easily?

As expected, after listening to the female acolyte, Torash’s gaze turned frostier, and immediately he waved his hand. A thick and long lightning streaked across the sky, directly landing onto Jayden.

Bang! The vines on Jayden’s body fell and he fainted. Moreover, his whole body turned into a black colour, as if like a pile of scorched rubble.

“My apologies, I don’t wish to let anyone present go today!”

Torash waved his hands.

According to the A.I. Chip’s detection, although Jayden’s outer appearance seemed to be terrifying, there was still a life force pulsating in him. Therefore, Leylin did not bother anymore about him. Instead, Leylin was more cautious about this acolyte in front of him.

“A Lightning element is indeed one of the stronger powers. Although Jayden’s Magic Artifact belongs to an attack type with minimal defense, he

was still defeated so quickly! No, it could be that the other party had been toying with him the same way a cat would with a mouse!”

“Now, it is my turn!”

Torash, who was on the other side charged directly at him and brandished a short black staff in his hand.

“Hng! Trying to be mystifying!” Leylin snorted and used the cross blade to slash at him.

Peng! The two weapons clashed. Under the frost effect, Leylin speed unavoidably took a slower turn. The original mirage effect could now not be used by him, where Torash caught dozens of his sword slashes.

Leylin’s Strength was obviously higher than his opponent, and his cross blade was of superior quality to his opponent’s short metal staff.

After the two weapons clanged, Leylin used the force in both his arms and pressed the sword down on his opponent.

“Hehe... Your Strength isn’t too bad!”

Although the blade was just centimetres away from his face, there was no fear on Torash face. Looking at Leylin, his gaze held some ridicule and... the savage thrill of retaliation?

Leylin felt something was amiss, and hurriedly let go of the cross blade as he jumped away.

In that very moment when he released his hands, several bolts of lightning extended from Torash’s arms and shot at the cross blade, even up to Leylin’s hands!

In the moment when the lightning current was about to hit him, Leylin forwent his sword and evaded the attack.

“Too late! Torash looked at Leylin’s figure and chanted an incantation.

The current from the staff directly bore through the mud and extended like the root of a tree. In the blink of an eye, it caught up to Leylin.

* Zzzii! “Once the black lightning landed on the ground, it reappeared

from the ground right in front of Leylin.

As if a poisonous snake, the blue lightning charged at Leylin.

“Ah!” Bicky who was on the other side involuntarily screamed and she clasped her mouth.

* Ping! * Suddenly, a layer of silver membrane appeared on Leylin’s body.

This layer of membrane immediately draped over Leylin’s whole body covering every inch, even his orifices were not left out.

On the silvery membrane, there were several pale reflections of flickering red jewels, giving off a mystical lustre.

The blue lightning took on the shape of a python with a crazed leer and opened its jaws. Lightning-made razor-sharp teeth directly bit on the membrane.

* Sssii Sssii! *

A similar sound to metal smashing porcelain was heard, and the ear piercing noise travelled across the whole battlefield. Bicky involuntarily covered her ears, to let her nerves calm down.

The lightning on Leylin’s body exploded, and from time to time a few poisonous-snake-like lightning currents converged and let off an explosive noise.

Looking on, Leylin seemed to be a silver statue, who was receiving the blessings of lightning bolts.

The lightning attack lasted for close to thirty seconds before it dissipated.

There was a shocked expression on Leylin’s face as he looked at the indication given by the A.I. Chip.

[... Host is subjected to Lightning-based attacks. Degree of power: 9! Fallen Star Pendant has automatically activated, energy consumed: 23.99%. Host has successfully blocked the attack and sustains no injuries!]

“Too careless!” The opponent’s lightning could actually pass through

normal physical materials. Moreover, it could use the layer of frost on the ground as a conductor to initiate the attacks!

Leylin looked at his hands. Knowing that his opponent excelled in the Lightning element, Leylin had already put on leather gloves before the battle.

However, the hands that gripped the cross blade earlier were still rather numb.

There was also a precursive condition for the Fallen Star Pendant to be activated. Leylin had customised it to activate only when his life was in peril. Otherwise, any raindrop from the sky would activate the Fallen Star Pendant and finish the consumption of energy in the Magic Artifact.

Previously, because Leylin had let go of his sword early on, the damage from the electric current to his body was extremely little. It was not enough to achieve the criteria to activate the Fallen Star Pendant.

Of course, due to the conductivity, the lightning was too fast, and Leylin still received an attack from it in his hands.

At last, Leylin backed away and under his opponent's chase, he suffered a 9 degree lightning attack. If he did not defend further, his life would be in peril. Hence, the criterion for the activation of Fallen Star Pendant was achieved, where a layer of membrane immediately appeared from his body.

The Fallen Star Pendant's defense could negate attacks up to 15 degrees. This is to say, if Torash attack could not exceed this degree, Leylin's body was like a turtle shell until the energy of the Fallen Star Pendant was depleted.

"How is this possible?" Gazing at Leylin who seemed injured, Torash's mouth was opened widely, enough to fit several duck eggs in it.

"This is an attack my professor has personalised for me. It complements with my affinity and my degree of attack is at least 9! How could you be fine?"

"I understand now! You definitely must have a defensive Magic Artifact

on your body!” Black-haired Torash pondered and quickly understood the truth.

“Although it is only a low-grade defence Magic Artifact, there will definitely be many official Magi who will be interested in it....”

Torash licked his lips and a fervent greed appeared on his face.

For this bloodbath, both sides signed an agreement not to use any strength that was above an acolyte!

Any person, scroll of Magic Artifact which exceeded this criterion would be teleported out in a flash and had no chance of getting in the secret plane.

Although Leylin’s Magic Artifact was precious, it still belonged to the low-grade series.

In Leylin’s eyes, these low-grade Magic Artifacts had might below that of official Magi.

Any Rank 1 spell’s degree of attack was 20 and above. If Leylin used the Fallen Star Pendant to block against them, he would definitely be slain immediately, not leaving a trace behind.

However, amongst the acolytes, the Fallen Star Pendant was a divine item!

Furthermore, even an official Magus would not mind having an extra layer of defense, no matter how small it was. However, the defence from Fallen Star Pendant was activated from the pendant and did not affect the owner in one bit.

The value of a low-grade defence Magic Artifact was at least 5 times that of Jayden’s attack type Magic Artifact!

Which is to say, right now, besides the A.I. Chip, the most valuable thing that Leylin had was this Magic Artifact!

“Kill him! Kill him! Then that Magic Artifact is mine!”

Torash’s eyes turned bloodshot, “Even if it is a Magic Artifact, there is a limitation. Once it’s depleted of energy, before the next recharge, it would

be a piece of trash! However, could I last until that long?”

“Even if I’m unable to keep him here today, I can gather other students to chase after him... Wait a minute, maybe there is a better idea?”

After seeing the Fallen Star Pendant, Torash did not harbour any hopes of holding Leylin here today. However, the flames of desire slowly invaded his logic.

Suddenly, Torash saw Bicky who was behind Leylin and his eyes flashed as he made a proposition.

“You! You are very concerned with the green-haired girl behind right?” Torash questioned, “Don’t deny it; jumping out to save her is the best proof!”

“So what?” Leylin’s brows furrowed.

“Give me your Magic Artifact, and I’ll let her go. Not only that, even Jayden and the other girl, I’ll let them go too!” Torash licked his lips.

“Haha....” After hearing that unexpected speech, Leylin shook his head.

“Yes! I can’t keep you here today as you have the Magic Artifact. However, I can definitely retain the green haired girl, and even kill her....”

Torash changed his words to a threat.

“Please do!” Leylin stretched his hands and gestured.

“You... Why would you....” This reply made Torash extremely shock.

“I only have some involvement with her, which is why I wanted to rescue her. If the loss is too great, however, then it wouldn’t be worth it! Furthermore, after I lose this defensive Magic Artifact, how can I still be able to haggle with you?”

Leylin looked at Torash with ridicule in his eyes.

He deeply understood that towards people making threats, you must never show that you are extremely mindful of the thing in their hands. If not, you would be baited into more and more demands.

Even if Torash really killed Bicky today, Leylin would only seek revenge

for her another day. Therefore, if he wanted to use Bicky to threaten Leylin, there were only two words for it: dream on!

Chapter 94: Self-Destruct

“I don’t believe you. You must have said it on purpose, didn’t you?”

Torash’s pair of cunning eyes flitted to the back of Leylin.

“Did you see that, after listening to your words, your little girlfriend is extremely heartbroken!”

“How lame!” Leylin did not even turn back.

“However, it’s time to end this!” Leylin looked up the sky, and the light rays were even brighter than dawn.

Magicians were intelligent beings. By threatening Leylin, Torash only harboured a negligible hope. His main purpose was most likely to stall for time until other acolytes could support him.

The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes in the secret plane were at an extreme disadvantage. Now it was also the second day, and the enemy acolytes would have already gathered. Once Leylin was discovered, a scene of calling and shouting for him to be killed would happen.

At that time, the innumerable spells which could cover the sky and earth would rain upon him. Even if Leylin had the Fallen Star Pendant, its energy was limited.

“What end?”

A few ingredients appeared in Torash’s hands, as he stepped several steps backwards.

“Of course, it is to end this silly game!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed and chanted an incantation.

Sssii! A reddish-green gas spread across upon the icy ground.

When the frost and a thin layer of mist came in contact with the red gas, the temperature of the battlefield rose immediately by a few degrees.

As for the green mist, it continued to spread across the field. The visibility lowered immediately, and one could not see beyond a 3 metres

radius.

“This is a spell I specially prepared for you, Flaming Cloud of Afterlife!”

Leylin spoke softly. Earlier when he exchanged senseless sentences with the opponent, he was actually wildly using the A.I. Chip for calculations. Furthermore, he set up the field, planting various types of ingredients in it.

“Just a mere corroding gas!”

Torash disdained it. On his whole body, there raged a blue current. If one described the current on his body as just a thin layer before, now it could be said to have already expanded to be 1 centimetre thick.

“Go!” Torash pointed, and the blue current directly charged into the reddish-green mist.

Sssii!

Where the electricity went, the reddish green gas evaporated, revealing the area around it.

However, Torash’s smug face was not maintained for more than a moment before it changed.

“This energy wave! You! You are not some Level 1 Acolyte, but a Level 3 Acolyte!”

From the centre of the reddish-green gas, energy fluctuations could be blatantly felt. His own electric snake was immediately corroded by the green mist. Furthermore, a trace of green colour continuously extended along the trajectory of the lightning towards Torash.

“No!” Torash gave a profound look to Leylin who was in the midst of clouds and mist and then simply broke into a run.

Leylin swung his arms and a green magic ring entirely enveloped Torash and he slowed down as if he was bound by chains.

Sssii!! A red-green smoky cloud spread close to Torash and it wrapped itself around his body.

The smoke grew denser and soon, Leylin could not even see Torash.

Crackle! Under the Flaming Cloud of Afterlife came the sounded of lightning and thunder sounds, along with Torash's cries of anguish.

Leylin smiled coldly. This Cloud of Afterlife had been modified by Leylin, and was specially inserted with the most conducive energy particles for the Lightning element. It could be said that it was the bane of all Lightning element acolytes!

After hearing the wails within the Cloud of Afterlife, and the noises of flesh corroding, a disturbed expression appear on Bicky's face.

"Argh! I'm going to kill you!"

A dozen seconds later, Torash charged out of the Cloud of Afterlife at Leylin, bringing a ball of cloud that clung to his body.

"Ah!" After seeing Torash's appearance, Bicky and the other acolyte let out a terrified scream.

At this moment, Torash was half-naked, with his clothing almost dissolved. On his body were many abscesses which were leaking with thick yellow pus.

One of his eyeballs had fallen out of its socket, held hanging there by a few bloody tissues still attached to it.

Along with a few missing pieces of flesh on his face, right now Torash looked like an imitation of Leylin's corpse from the previous world.

"Although acolytes can use energy particles to strengthen their Vitality, such a strong life force is still extremely rare!"

Leylin stretched his hands, and a black wrist guard automatically extended its reach, finally turning into a black bow where a sharp arrow with a reverse spike was notched on it.

[Wind speed and humidity in calculation, adjusting trajectory!]

Under the aid of the A.I. Chip, right now Leylin's archery skills were that of a bow master.

Chi Xiu Xiu! Four arrows were shot from the bow and like black rays of light, streaked across the sky, directly penetrated through Torash's 4

limbs, nailing him to the ground.

“Urgh Urgh!” Torash struggled. The flesh on his body continuously fell to the ground, and it seemed that even his voice was now affected. Right now, he could not even voice a single word.

“We... Won?” Looking at this scene, Bicky’s eyes looked somewhat bewildered.

“En! It’s us who won, but there are still some things to do!”

Leylin notched his bow again and pointed to the girl beside Bicky, “What’s your name?”

“Mo...Molly! Sir!” Witnessing Leylin using the Cloud of Afterlife to torture Torash in such an unthinkable manner, the female acolyte yielded very quickly.

“Very good! Molly! Go up there and take down the severed head of the enemy who tried to murder your friend!”

“No! You can’t do this! Molly is still a kid! I! I will be able to do it for her....”

Bicky stood up.

Xiu! At the same time, an arrow shot past the fine hair beside her ears, flying to a distance behind.

“Do not countermand my orders. If not, the next arrow will be through your brain!” Leylin’s eye flashed coldly, seemingly fiendish.

“I will go!” That female acolyte called Molly spoke up and Bicky turned silent.

“I like girls who are obedient!” Leylin nodded his head and used an arrow to point at Torash who was thrashing on the ground. “So then! Hurry and do it!”

The female acolyte gritted her teeth. She took out a knife which was embedded in jewels from her robes and walked forward. Looking on at Torash who was pinned to the ground on his four limbs by four arrows, her expression was extremely complicated.

It was this person, who was deemed as a potential Magus, a genius acolyte who possessed a Magic Artifact. However, right now his four limbs were pinned to the ground as if a dog that was waiting to be slaughtered.

This feeling extended like vines, spreading its reach in her heart. "Is this the taste of power? How great!"

Looking at the female acolyte raising her dagger, Leylin moved quickly and grabbed Bicky, retreating dozens of metres behind.

"Let me go, you sick pervert!" Bicky continuously thrashed.

From her aspect, this acolyte that Leylin shapeshifted into was a stranger to her. Yet he had an unthinkable power and he was extremely emotionless.

Earlier he said that he was rescuing her, yet in the blink of an eye he pointed an arrow at her and even fired it!

In Bicky's heart, right now Leylin was now a somewhat powerful madman.

Moreover, in the Magus World, due to problems occurring from experiment and meditations, it was likely possible that their mental state was affected.

Leylin shrugged his shoulders. After maintaining a distance away, he let go of Bicky.

At this moment, both their eyes were shining bright and staring at the female acolyte who was holding a dagger before Torash.

"Too rash! Too rash! The winning rate that the A.I. Chip provided earlier was not considered high. Moreover, it said that I could only kill this acolyte after paying the price of sustaining light injuries. However, right now he is just a piece of flesh on a chopping board! For me to butcher!"

"Unless... There are some unknown trump cards on his body!" Leylin's intelligent eyes gazed.

After holding the dagger, Molly looked in Leylin's direction again. Right now the arrow notched in his bow was still aimed towards her. She could

only despair as she closed her eyes and pierced the dagger downwards!

“What a pity!” At this moment, Torash suddenly opened his eyes, revealing death and unresolved regrets in his eyes.

“I never thought that I would really use this move one day, much less to deal with a mere Level 2 Acolyte!”

Boom!

In his voice, countless lightning appeared from Torash’s body. These lightning were extremely violent, and spread through Torash’s body in an instant, even converging inward.

After the lightning had reached an extremely small dot, Torash’s body suddenly exploded, with the noise of the huge boom reverberating throughout the area.

The sound wave continuously swept past everything, uprooting plants and sending pebbles flying.

“Be careful!” In the moment when the explosion occurred, Leylin immediately pulled Bicky to his side and smashed a potion on the ground - Trevor’s Revolving Shield Potion!

At the same time, the Fallen Star Pendant on his neck also emitted a dusky glow.

Under the protection of the potion and the layer of light, the ground under Leylin and Bicky was not touched the slightest. It was even taller than the surrounding area of a certain length.

[Estimated target’s degree of power: 16! Spell type - Corpse Combustion: 45.7%, Electric Field: 34.5%]

Looking at the data from the A.I. Chip, Leylin finally understood how did the A.I. Chip come up with the winning rate.

Although he had the Fallen Star Pendant, it could only resist spells which were 15 degrees or lower. As for Torash’s final self-destruct explosion, it was obviously at 16 degrees, which could break the defence of the Fallen Star Pendant and cause harm to Leylin.

However, the last hit was done by Molly, while Leylin distanced himself dozens of metres behind. Not only did he suffer little collateral damage from the explosion, there was even time to put up his defenses.

“However, a degree of 16 huh? It is already close to that of a Magus value, he is indeed a top acolyte from a large faction!”

Towards his dead enemies, Leylin never spared his praises for them.

“You murderer! Executioner! You knew long ago that the opponent would self-destruct, didn’t you?”

Bicky who was in Leylin’s embrace pushed him away, her pair of pretty eyes filled with tears.

The ground where Torash self-destructed turned into a large pit now; together with bits and pieces of clothing and charred flesh. In the explosion earlier, Torash and that female acolyte, Molly, naturally had died together. Even the remnants of their corpses were mixed together.

Chapter 95: 1 Versus 2

Hearing Bicky's accusation, Leylin only rubbed his nose, without saying anything.

Meanwhile, he was rejoicing from the bottom of his heart. He was fortunate that he had altered his appearance beforehand, if not, it would have been hard to face Bicky.

However, he could only do this much.

Leylin came and stood next to the large pit formed by the explosion, and a round badge fell near his foot. The originally bright and beautiful badge was now covered with dust and it also had some residual flesh upon it.

"Just from a look, it seems that this acolyte must be a genius in his academy! His badge, at the very least, would be worth 50 contribution points!"

Leylin was still contemplating the badge lying beside his feet, with some hesitation.

Now, this badge was under his foot; if he stooped down, he could then get it into his hand.

With it, Leylin's contribution points would be enough to exchange for one portion of Grine Water when the bloodbath was over.

He heard about the information regarding advancement into an official Magus from the vengeful spirit Roman and was rather hesitant in using such a method to breakthrough. However, the Grine Water was extremely valuable, and even if he did not use it, obtaining it and using the A.I. Chip to research on its composition was also a good idea.

However, the badges of a few extraordinary acolytes from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the opposing academies have been specially marked. As long as Leylin handed over the badge, it would be equivalent to admitting that he was the murderer of Torash!

Leylin would never forget that there is a professor standing behind Torash!

“Maybe, giving this badge to Jayden or Merlin is a good idea!”

Leylin stepped on the badge below his feet and smiled.

He had had a quick look earlier; Jayden had been knocked out at the border of the battlefield. Although he seemed to be in a miserable state, he managed to preserve his life, and there did not seem to be any life-threatening injuries.

“However, there are still two worms that I have to deal with!”

Leylin looked at the shrubbery at the side and suddenly flung two fiery red explosive potions at it.

Boom! The two test tubes collided in midair, creating a large flame which seemed to blanket over the shrubbery.

Xiu Xiu! In the moment when the flame engulfed the shrubbery, two black figures flew out from it, landing on an empty patch of ground.

Silver-Claw Saurun and another blonde acolyte looked at the pit where Torash self-destructed, their expressions grim.

“Torash, that lightning wielder, actually died by this fellow’s hands. Oh god, this fellow is a monster!”

Saurun looked at the expressionless Leylin, his heart roaring wildly. Lightning wielder Torash, that was a monster whose reputation was not beneath that of his silver claw! Yet today he actually died by Leylin’s hands, so what kind of strength did Leylin wield?

“If I knew he was that powerful, I wouldn’t be this foolish to chase after him!”

At this moment, the feeling of regret slowly engulfed Saurun’s heart.

“What should be done?” The blonde female acolyte looked at Saurun and cursed him inwardly when she saw that he was already of a mind to retreat.

“What else? We have to see if the opponent will let us go!”

Saurun waved his hands and bowed slightly to Leylin. “Respected acolyte

who hails from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, your strength has convinced me, and I, Saurun, will never hold any ill intents towards you in future....”

Towards Saurun’s gesture of succumbing, the female blond acolyte pursed her lips but never spoke a word.

After seeing Leylin’s might and brutality, even she was somewhat afraid!

As for the revenge of his fellow acolytes? Although the death rate of Whitewoods Castle and Sage Gotham’s Hut was not as high as Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, but there were a few unlucky ones dying each month.

If Saurun and the blonde acolyte were to avenge every dead fellow acolyte, then they would definitely have to first massacre the acolytes within their academy.

The reason for following Leylin before was because they thought of him as a prey, and was prepared to play a good game with him.

But now, Leylin’s ability had far exceeded their expectations, and his actions were extremely meticulous, yet brutal, which made them rather fearful of him.

“Is that so?”

Leylin did not agree nor deny, and kept the black bow in his hands. He also picked up the cross blade which he had thrown on the ground earlier.

“A pity! You should not have followed me!”

Leylin growled softly, at the same time chanting an incantation, and gave his cross blade a smear with his hand.

Sssii! The temperature suddenly dropped by a few degrees, and the frost continued to spread on the sword. In an instant, Leylin’s cross blade turned into a transparent icy greatsword.

He managed to obtain this set of frost alchemy runes from the corpse of the half beastman previously, who was the close associate of Extreme Night City Lord. After storing it into the A.I. Chip, he also did an analysis

on it.

At this moment, under the effect of the frost alchemy runes, the effect of the icy greatsword did not pale in comparison to a low-grade Magic Artifact!

“Light of the fallen!” After brandishing his greatsword in satisfaction, Leylin activated another Magic Artifact on his body.

Peng! A streak of an illusory glow was emitted from the Fallen Star Pendant, which engulfed Leylin’s whole body. The silver-grey light slowly transformed into illusory armour, which protected Leylin.

At this moment, Leylin, in his silver armour of light, with a transparent greatsword, looked just like a knight from the fables!

The A.I. Chip’s reminder continuously sounded in Leylin’s head, [Under the effect of the frost runes, estimated degree of attack with the cross blade is 3 to 5, also carrying the side effect of an ice attack! The entire defense in the Fallen Star Pendant is activated, energy consumed is depleting, estimated to be fully depleted in 15 minutes!]

“We have no choice but to fight!”

Saurun and the other female acolyte looked at each other in the eye and saw the viciousness reflected in their expressions.

From Leylin’s performance, it was clear that he was not inclined to let them go, so no matter how they pleaded it would be meaningless.

Moreover, they were also geniuses with their own pride. They may not fare better in a 1-on-1 fight against Torash, but in a 2 against 1 situation, even Torash would have had a headache from fighting them.

“I’ll stall him first; you prepare your formidable spell!”

Saurun said to the female acolyte and immediately reached out with his right hand.

At this moment, the silver skin on his right hand shimmered and transformed into scales. His fingernails extended and curved downwards, the sharpness bringing a cold glint. His whole silvery human palm turned

into silvery beast claw!

A bloodthirsty tint emerged in Saurun's eyes as he stepped forward to shield the female blonde acolyte behind him.

As for the female blonde acolyte, she continuously drew out ingredients from her robes as she chanted, from time to time using a dagger to cut her skin, dripping her fresh blood on the magic ingredients.

A strong magical energy wave gradually formed around the female blonde acolyte.

"How interesting. A close combat with a far cast, this is indeed a good combination!"

Leylin laughed manically and charged forward.

Bang! With the effect of Leylin's Knight qualities, Saurun only saw a grey blur and could only instinctively reach out with his razor claw.

Peng! The frost greatsword and the silver claw clashed. An icy, bone-chilling cold permeated to the silver claw, extending onto Saurun's body.

"So fast!" Saurun retreated several steps and hid the silver claw behind his back.

Borrowing the concealment of his sleeves, there was a layer of frost which slowly climbed up his arm, until the point of his elbow.

"Haha.... Great! Again!"

Leylin roared wildly, once again brandishing the greatsword and charged forward. Sensing the faint aura about him, Saurun couldn't help but close his eyes, with a notion of wanting to submit to Leylin.

"Cross Blade Slash!"

Leylin hollered, the frost greatsword drew a beautiful cross. What was different from the previous energy wave was that the Cross Blade Slash now had formed a layer of ice which was sent chopping towards Saurun.

"Argh!" Saurun's eyes were bloodshot as he gritted his teeth and raised the silver claw before his body. The scales on the silvery claw quickly

extended and took on the form of a small shield to block the attack.

Chi! The greatsword made a huge dent in Saurun's silver defense. Not only were there white ice forming, the chilliness also permeated the area.

Pu! Saurun revoked his silver shield, but now, upon his silvery right hand, there were two deep wounds through which bones could be seen and a sheet of cold ice blocked this wound from bleeding.

An icy-cold sensation continuously spread within his body and Saurun was aghast upon having discovered that already his right hand was feeling numb as if it had lost all sensation and that his body movement had also become more and more restricted.

“Die!”

Leylin unhesitatingly brought the sword to Saurun's neck in order to behead him.

“No!” bellowed Saurun, waving the stub of his left hand. His left hand had by now turned silver and the fingertips had a faint blackish tinge and he aimed a stab at Leylin's abdomen.

Within the academy, all the apprentices knew that Saurun's achievements in Transfiguration far exceeded that of other similar disciples and that his right hand could transform and become a sharp, incomparable killing machine.

However, all of the acolytes were deceived by Saurun. His left hand was the real trump card!

Not only could he use beast transfiguration for his silver-claw attack, it even had a Shadow and Toxic element that Saurun had paid a high price for. As long as the poison were to be smeared onto the opponent's skin, even an official Magus would be in trouble!

On the brink of death, Saurun adopted a fighting method that would result in both parties being severely injured, for the sliver of a chance at survival!

Peng!

Leylin's expression was grim as he allowed the razor sharp claw to scratch his body. At the same time, the frost greatsword swung down mercilessly as it severed Saurun's head from his neck.

Chapter 96: Slaying The Two Acolytes

Peng!

Saurun's head, an unresigned expression upon the face, flew several metres far in the air, and finally fell to the ground. His both eyes were opened wide; he was no longer able to close them.

His headless corpse was still kneeling in front of Leylin and blood poured out from it continuously.

The corpse's left hand was still extended – it was his misfortune that it was blocked by grey radiant armour, a few inches away from Leylin's body.

“With the defense of the Fallen Star Pendant, I don't have to fear most of the acolytes' attacks. Along with the frost runes' enhancement of a greatsword, combined with my Knight's abilities, it is one of the top strengths amongst acolytes!”

Leylin was very satisfied with this battle's outcome.

Saurun was only an acolyte who was slightly less inferior than Torash. When Leylin, however, used his techniques, he could not withstand even a few rounds before being completely defeated, even with his head being chopped off.

“It's your turn now!” Leylin kicked Saurun's corpse away and charged towards the female blond acolyte.

“It's completed!”

At the same time, the female blond acolyte exhaled, as if shouldering a huge burden.

A bright red flower unfolded its petals and revealed a green rock the size of a fist. It had a dazzling gleam, with the female blond acolyte's fresh blood that was sprayed on it. There was also a broken half of a dagger, which was thrown on the floor.

These 3 items faintly resembled a triangular formation, with many greyish power runes surrounding them.

As Leylin's charged forward fiercely, the female blond acolyte smirked and pointed at Leylin, "By the name of Memphis Rofar Maginent, of the Gigantic Binding Sprite from the abyss, the person that I point to will lose all ability of motion!"

Weng Weng!

Light began to shine from the triangular formation, and Leylin suddenly felt a huge binding strength engulfing him, which made him rooted to the spot.

"A spell like this? A human customised spell?"

Leylin continuously writhed and the sounds of shackles sounded from the void.

"There is no cause for you to resist further. These are the chains of the Gigantic Binding Abyss Sprite. No matter how many of them you break, the remaining amount would not only regrow, but the binding power will also be doubled!"

As the female acolyte spoke, Leylin felt the chain getting tighter and tighter around his body.

Chi! The silver glow from the Fallen Star Pendant continuously clashed against strength from the void, time to time producing white mist.

"You despicable maggot, the shameless murderer, you dared to killed the acolytes from two of our great academies, so I will grant you death to redeem your sins!"

The thrill of revenge and smugness filled the face of the female acolyte. The muscles on her face contorted, turning the once-beautiful face into an extremely loathsome one.

"You dared to kill Saurun; I will make you pay the price of blood!"

The female acolyte pointed at Leylin, "Strength! Deprivation!"

As she spoke, Leylin felt the strength in his body dispersing. In an instant, it was as if he changed from a Knight into a regular human infant.

"This feeling, have I been cursed?"

Leylin continuously struggled, “Such a measly curse, how can it make me bow my head!”

“It all has ended!” The female acolyte chanted in an incantation, “Flames of the abyss, cremate this sinner into ashes!”

As soon as the Byron language incantation had been uttered, a black fire suddenly blazed from below Leylin’s body.

The flame continuously spread, engulfing Leylin’s whole body in an instant.

Peng! The frost greatsword on Leylin’s hands fell onto the floor. The icy shards shattered and broke into many pieces. Finally, even the refined metal blade of the cross blade melted under the black red flames, turning into a puddle of liquid metal.

Chi Chi!

The grey armour on Leylin’s body started to give in, and the A.I. Chip wildly flashed its alert in front of Leylin’s eyes, [Warning! Warning! The energy from the Fallen Star Pendant is rapidly decreasing. Currently left with: 45%. Estimated to be fully depleted in 34 seconds!]

“Ignore it and release all the energy within the Fallen Star Pendant in one go!” Leylin ordered.

“Weng Weng!” In that moment, the silver-grey light increased its radiance by a dozen times. Behind his back, there was an indistinct huge cross phantom. On the upper area of the phantom cross, a few jewels continuously gave off multi-coloured light as a wave of energy extended to Leylin’s limbs.

“Break...for me!”

Leylin struggled with all his might, and suddenly, crackling and rattling sounds could be heard from his body, and the countless black-rune-inscribed chains became visible and broke from all the struggling done by Leylin. They then fell to the ground and vanished.

“It’s your turn now, you disgusting whore!”

Leylin's figure flew like a gust of wind and appeared directly in front of the female acolyte.

"Im...Impossible, how did you manage to counter it?" shrieked the female blonde acolyte and she pointed her finger at Leylin. Then several basin-sized fireballs directly struck Leylin's body.

Boom! The flames exploded, burning with the previous black fire, as it extinguished very soon.

Behind the silver grey transparent armour, Leylin was unscathed.

"No! No!" The female acolyte fell onto the ground and crawled backwards.

Leylin kicked the green rock and dagger on the ground, breaking the spell formation.

Two streams of red fluid trickled down from the female acolyte's nose, even her tears were falling.

"No! Don't kill me! My mentor is...."

The female acolyte snivelled continuously as she crawled and spoke.

"I don't care who you are!" Leylin's expression appeared indifferent as he embraced this blonde woman.

The Fallen Star Pendant kept defending his body from the abyss black fire that was still burning on his body, but this female acolyte obviously did not have a similar layer of defense. Upon being barbecued by the flames, she gave an ear-piercing shriek.

Sssii! The flesh of the girl dropped, chunk by chunk, onto the floor, turning into a pile of charred mess.

Finally, the originally beautiful female acolyte turned into a blood red skeleton. Moreover, the set of bones slowly melted, turning into a white liquid which dripped onto the floor

Leylin grimaced and with his hand, he swept away the remainder of the white bone liquid that were on him.

After which, as if he were changing his clothes, he ‘took off’ the grey armour.

As for the black red abyss flame on the grey armour, it was also removed.

“In the legends and tales told by the bards, the abyss fire is something which can burn the void. An existence that all children of the earth cannot resist! This is most likely just a projection of the true abyss fire— it does not have even one zillionth of the original’s might. If not, I would have long turned into ashes!”

Leylin thought for a while, before returning to the original place. He then recorded all of the ingredients and the spell formation that the female acolyte used before roaming the battlefield to collect his spoils of war.

Peng! The unconscious Jayden was tossed before Bicky.

Although the battle earlier was extremely intense, the time that had passed was extremely short – so much so that Bicky was still in shock.

“Hurry and leave this place. The energy waves from earlier would attract many acolytes over. If you don’t wish to die, hurry and leave now!”

Leylin cleared his throat and looked at Bicky who nodded her head before he left the place.

Looking at the back of Leylin, Bicky’s expression was extremely complicated.

This person was here to save her. Moreover, the strength that he possessed was far above that which Bicky could imagine.

Lightning Wielder, Silver Claw, they were all impressive and notable acolytes from the opposing academies. However in front of that person earlier, they were as weak as a sponge when they pleaded and was slaughtered mercilessly.

“But. . . exactly who is he?”

Bicky blinked her eyes. Merlin, Leylin, Fayle and the others, all of the

acolytes' images flashed past from her memory, yet she felt helpless as there was no such person in all of the acolytes that she recalled that resembled her savior.

However, her instincts told her that she definitely knew this person and that they had an extremely intimate relationship!

“Magi are reputed for their rationality. Such a thing like instinct will lower our judgment. Everything has to be proved beyond refutation....”

The sayings of an elder surfaced in her mind.

Bicky's expression was seemingly vacant as she gritted her teeth and poured a potion on Jayden's face, before she, too, left that place.

Although Jayden was Molly's idol, she was now dead. Naturally Bicky wouldn't risk anymore for Jayden.

Minutes later, Jayden opened his eyes and got up.

“What happened to me? Where is Torash?”

Jayden was at a loss, before the colours on his face changed. Touching his chest, he felt for the Magic Artifact which was still resting in his arms. Moreover, when he ensured that his sack was present, only then did he heave a sigh of relief.

“This is the aftermath of an intense battle! Who is it that saved me?”

Jayden scratched his forehead, before thinking of a girl's figure who had dashed towards him, “Was it Molly? Such a terrifying battle, I wonder how she is....”

“Here!” Footsteps sounds drew closer and very soon 2 acolytes appeared within Jayden's vision.

“An acolyte from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy! Kill him!”

After seeing Jayden, the two acolytes let off an excited howl and began to prepare their Rank O spells.

Jayden sighed, before bringing out his Magic Artifact once again...

Leylin was, by now, dozens of miles away from this battlefield. He was

settled in a cave, checking his spoils.

Those 3 acolytes were well known for their strengths. Furthermore, the ingredients and Magic Crystals that they carried with them were plentiful. They gave Leylin a total of tens of thousands of Magic Crystals and other valuable resources.

Leylin felt the surface of a black red diary cover, and he exclaimed in glee, "This aura is rather similar to the female acolyte's abyss fire!"

Leylin flipped open the diary and a mysterious rune appeared, "A.I. Chip, compare to database!"

[Beep! Mission establishing, comparison in progress! Similarity level to Abyss script: 98.7%, Purgatory script: 45.3%....]

"Abyss script?" Leylin had a headache. Characters and knowledge from these mysterious planes were top-secrets and the knowledge was not passed around. He only managed to understand a few runes from derelict pages of a book in the library and stored them into the A.I. Chip database.

"No matter what, it is a good spoil!"

Satisfied, Leylin kept the black red diary in his possession.

Chapter 97: Conclusion

What followed next was the most valuable loot this time around.

Leylin looked at the pile of items in front of him and muttered irresolutely to himself.

There were a few broken items, a dagger which had been broken into half, the remnant of a silver palm, with an incomplete silver necklace, with lightning flashing time to time.

The 3 acolytes who died under Leylin's hands were the potential Magi of the enemy academies, so how could they not have Magic Artifacts on them?

It was a pity, however, that the broken dagger from the female blonde acolyte was only used to summon the aura of the abyss, and Leylin was still unable to figure out how the other items were meant to be used.

As for Silver-Claw Saurun, he was totally a pervert, who actually infused the Magic Artifact into his own palm.

Leylin could only chop the whole palm down, to try to separate the various properties in the Magic Artifact.

As for Torash, the Magic Artifact on him had also destroyed itself, which was the reason why he could unleash an attack of 16 degrees at the end.

The probing of Magic Artifacts was an extremely dangerous task. Before further information, Leylin did not dare to risk and use these items.

Moreover, who knows if there were some booby trap laid within the Magic Artifacts by the enemy, thus Leylin felt that he should be more cautious.

If he discovered that they might cause trouble to him, no matter how much Leylin was reluctant to part with them he would still toss them away within this secret plane.

After all, he did not wish for an official Magus to notice him.

“Actually, there is still a Magic Artifact that can be easily obtained! That

is the green vine badge on Jayden's body!"

Leylin saw Jayden use this Magic Artifact on the Dirigible before, back when he used it to suppress Kaliweir, leaving a strong impression on Leylin's memory.

However, this badge was given to him by Professor Dorotte.

As for Dorotte, he was an official Magus in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. If Leylin snatched an enemy's Magic Artifact and hid in the academy, he might be safe. However if he took Jayden's, then Leylin wouldn't be able to stay in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy anymore.

During the academy's critical moments, if the news that he was still causing harm to fellow acolytes got out, then Leylin's name would be equivalent to the despised street rat, in the Magus World.

He would not lose his rationality for just this little benefit.

"There is this also!"

Leylin flicked his hands, and two differently shaped badges appeared in his hands.

This were the badges of Saurun and the female blonde acolyte. Although they were weaker than Torash by a little, but it was still worth at least 20 to 30 contribution points.

"At first, I'll just hold onto these. If I'm able to find other badges in future then I won't exchange these!"

These two badges were Leylin's insurance. If he was able to collect other badges in the secret plane to accumulate 50 contribution points, then he wouldn't use these.

However, if the contribution points were not enough, then Leylin had no choice, and could only hand over one of them or both.

As for Torash, Leylin felt that his strength was of great importance to his academy and the person backing Torash would have spent enormous efforts in nurturing him and so it was better to not provoke him.

.....

Two days passed.

The wilderness found outside the secret plane was lit up with a bright yellow color. From time to time, there were gusts of wind blowing granules of sand, and the living organisms on the ground avoided this place at all cost – even the moles and ants were not an exception.

The entrance to the secret plane was slowly shrinking as if it were a live animal.

Outside of the entrance, the 3 chairmen and all the professors looked at the entrance that was constantly glowing with varying colours and had different expressions on their faces.

Siley looked at the silver hourglass floating in midair. On the upper half of the hourglass, beads of golden sand trickled downwards, finally leaving behind a thin layer.

Di! With the passing of time, the final golden bead of sand trickled downward.

“The time is up, let us receive our acolytes!” Siley opened his mouth and spoke in a low tone.

“Are you extremely anxious?” Guru who was at the side smirked, “Every minute more that passes, one acolyte in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy will be slain. Their heads will become the glory of my Sage Gotham’s Hut, and hung on the large gates....”

“At this moment, the secret plane might no longer have anymore Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes. We all know that once the acolytes from the two academies have gathered, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s acolytes would be meat on a chopping board for us to slice, and is not even equivalent to a lamb.

The other blonde women smiled – but her smile seemed somewhat malicious.

“Nicola, you still can’t let it go?” Finally, a trace of expression surfaced on Siley’s face, and it seemed to be - regret?

“I have long since forgotten the matters from the past!” The female blonde woman Nicola said with a frosty expression.

“You can seek revenge for the matters previously, but once you are bent on destroying this academy that I succeeded as a professor, then you will be my eternal nemesis!”

Siley’s face too gradually hardened.

“Haha...Haha... You are still as arrogant as before, thinking that you are the main character of some novel, which the earth would revolve around you indefinitely!”

“However such an expression makes me want to puke!” Said the blonde woman as her eyes appeared to emit flames.

“I want to destroy your life’s work, destroy the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, even if there is the Lighthouse of the Night mediating, this time, there is still the next time....”

“Enough!” Guru at the side interrupted Nicola.

“Earlier you did not stop me and Siley from fighting, but why is it that you can’t endure it now?”

“My reason for stopping you was because I want to take action myself!” Nicola’s maniacal look grew even stronger.

“Enough!” A dense black colour descended, and covered the sky in an instant.

Amidst the darkness, there was a bright yellow light that came from within, revealing a figure that was wrapped in black robes.

“Sir!” The three chairmen bowed.

They were only Rank 2 Magus, yet this person in front of them was a true Rank 3 Magus! Every level in the Magus World had an obvious difference like that between the sky and earth.

Previously, it was this Sir that suppressed the 3 of them to mediate the war.

“Since my Lighthouse of the Night has already stepped in, any conflicts that arise after is deemed as a provocation to us, as the contract and date are still effective.”

The black-robed man had a pair of dark green eyes. No matter if it was Siley or the other 2 chairman, if these eyes landed on them, they would shudder as if being trapped by some magical beast.

This feeling of imminent death finally brought Nicola out from her madness.

“From now, activate the spell formation, and receive the acolytes within the secret plane!”

“Yes, Sir!”

Peng!

A fiery explosion erupted, and set the acolytes behind Leylin on fire, turning them into ashes.

Leylin’s footsteps did not stop as he continued to escape.

“It’s him who killed Seet, Kroc, and Old Eagle, don’t let him escape!”

Behind him, parties of Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle acolytes were formed, a standard party of seven, which continuously gave chase.

Leylin’s pursuers gradually drew closer.

Peng! Leylin flung another two explosive potions again, where flames continuously extended behind him.

The acolytes yelled and Leylin drew a longer distance from them.

“Damn it!” Leylin’s face was downcast.

After killing the 3 acolytes previously, Leylin began his hunting movement all alone again.

At first, it was rather smooth sailing, where he collected another Level 3 Acolyte’s badge. This time, he specifically chose those who were rather old or those with no powerful items on them. They were those who seemed

not able to advance further and had no strong backing behind them.

During the later half of the second day, all of the enemy camp acolytes had already gathered and formed group spell formations!

All of them were performed by Level 2 or 3 Acolyte groups. If their numbers were sufficient, even a Rank 1 Magus had to seek retreat temporarily.

Leylin had no choice, so he could only conceal himself and stop his hunt.

With the detection of the A.I. Chip, he managed to successfully hide until this day.

Things went according to how he had predicted: after the acolytes had gathered, they formed smaller squadrons and made a thorough search of the secret plane. They maintained a wanting-to-kill-every-last-enemy posture.

Many Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes were immediately killed, and under the opponent's immense pressure, they could not even resist.

Leylin even saw a Level 3 Acolyte who carried a Magic Artifact, but that acolyte could only survive for a few more minutes under the spell formation. Afterward, he was ripped to shreds by the countless Rank 0 spells that befell on him. Even the Magic Artifact became the trophy prize for his opponents.

Leylin could only extend his sympathisation to this fellow acolyte, and covered his tracks even more covertly.

Fortunately, the methods of magicians were extremely strange, and the opponents were only two academies who could not completely be harmonious amongst themselves. This gave the acolytes of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy a chance for survival!

After Leylin estimated that time was almost up, he immediately ambushed a small party, since he was one badge short of his goal.

According to his estimation, once he kills the opponents, then the time would be up, where he would even be teleported out and not need to face

the group's counterattack.

"Fuck! This lack of punctuality will have people killed!"

Of course, Leylin wouldn't expect that the time would be delayed due to the enmity of the chairmen, which resulted in an error to his calculations.

After killing one of the Level 3 Acolyte, he was immediately surrounded and attacked.

"The Fallen Star Pendant's energy was fully consumed the last time and I have not recharged it. If not I could have escaped long ago!"

Leylin gritted his teeth and gave an order, "A.I. Chip! Detect the geographical area and calculation the best retreat route!"

[Beep! Mission establishing!]

Along with the A.I. Chip's indication, Leylin began to make various unexpected ducking movements amidst the dense forest, slowly pulling the distance further away from the pursuing acolytes.

"I have finally escaped!"

After running for over a dozen miles and shaking off his pursuers, suddenly he felt dizzy, and the badge pinned to his chest glowed resplendently.

"Fuck, the teleportation is finally here!"

Chapter 98: Murderer Identified

The badge on Leylin's chest emitted a fluorescent light.

Leylin's entire body was then engulfed by a layer of this light and was lifted off the ground as he began to involuntarily rise into the sky.

Floating at a distance within the light bubble, Leylin saw other acolytes in distant regions also floating in the same manner; they looked like stars strewn across the sky.

"This is really a beautiful scene!"

Leylin couldn't help sighing in appreciation. His hand touched a badge and holding it he said, "There is no force felt from this badge, it seems that the pulling force of the badge only works on those acolytes who are still alive. If that's the case!"

Leylin waved his hands, and 2 badges that belonged to two Level 3 Acolytes was tossed out of the light bubble.

These two badges had, at one time, belonged to Silver-Claw Saurun and the female blonde acolyte. Since Leylin had already collected sufficient badges, he would no longer keep these two with him.

"I also have this thing with me!" said Leylin, as he withdrew an iron chain that had an electrical current and also threw that away.

After a thorough examination by the A.I. Chip on this destroyed Magic Artifact, there was a hidden Spiritual Force within it which kept pulsating – it seemed that this force had a tracking ability. If Leylin were to bring this item with him, then the professors of the enemy academy would know immediately that he was the one who had killed Torash.

As for the other items taken from the acolytes – the half dagger and the shattered palm – there were no problems if he brought them back with him. They were carefully placed within his rucksack.

"The final procedure!"

Leylin smiled heartily, and removed the Shapeshifting spell.

The muscles on his face contorted, as his height continuously grew. Very soon, Leylin resumed the state of his original appearance.

“I have been acting inside the secret plane with this disguise, where no one had seen my true appearance!”

“I’m afraid after I exit, the enemy academy would wildly search for an acolyte that doesn’t exist?” After thinking of the probable scene in the future, he could not help but smile.

“Right now, I am Leylin Farlier, an ordinary Potioneering acolyte!”

.....

Looking at the dazzling rainbow coloured exit, Leylin’s smile widened yet even more....

With much effort, Leylin managed to suppress the dizziness that came abruptly and did not vomit.

“The feeling of crossing planes is not a great one!”

“Hurry up and move, don’t block the way!” A cold voice sounded right beside Leylin’s ear.

Leylin hurriedly bowed and left the place.

Only then, did he take a look at the surroundings.

Outside the exit of the secret plane, it looked the same as before. The 3 academies were divided into a triangular formation where they faced each other. Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle members stood closer together, and faced the common enemy, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, in unison.

As for now, acolytes continuously swarmed out from the exit, returning back to their respective professor’s side.

“Who is that person?”

Leylin saw a black robed man ahead of the 3 chairmen. He couldn’t help guessing the person’s identity.

Shua! But now, because the black-robed man felt Leylin’s unwavering

sight upon him, he turned his head around and looked back.

He immediately glanced upon a pair of dark green eyes.

The surrounding world was as if it had been suspended in time; everywhere one could see only green.

The acolytes and professors around Leylin seemed to turned into jade statues where no signs of life could be observed.

Leylin strove to open his mouth, but he found no words coming out of his mouth.

“Leylin! Leylin! Leylin!”

The surrounding statues suddenly opened their mouths, chanting Leylin’s name.

“What is happening?” Leylin roared within his heart, but not a single word could be spoken.

Peng! Peng The dark green sculptures began to move and green dust constantly fell off of them. Their eyes had become red-colored, as if the sockets had been embedded with rubies.

.....

Countless green statues swarmed around Leylin, drowning him....

“Argh!” Leylin suddenly regained consciousness and panted heavily.

“What happened earlier?” The surrounding acolytes now seemed to be doing fine, yet Leylin did not dare to look in the direction of those chairmen again.

“Relax, son!” A pair of hands with a medicinal scent covered Leylin’s head, emitting a white glowing light.

“Professor Kroft!” Leylin bowed deeply. Under the white light, he felt much better.

“Was it you who saved me?”

“I did not exactly ‘save’ you, only a small favour.” Professor Kroft smiled and led Leylin back towards their academy’s gathering area.

“Official Magi always have a defensive force field surrounding them. Moreover, most of it are instantly activated or have a permanent effect. As for higher ranking Magi, they have an even stronger force field encircling them at all times. An ordinary acolyte cannot even get close to them!”

Kroft explained for Leylin.

“Just now, that Magus from the Lighthouse of the Night did not do it intentionally; he just looked over this side and immediately many apprentices got caught in a hallucination. If a professor wasn’t here, then I would have been. . . ”

Kroft’s expression slowly turned stern, “Leylin, before you turn into an official Magus, remember to steer clear of any high ranking Magus! If not, I would not even be able to imagine your end....”

“I’ll keep that in mind!” Leylin’s expression was extremely solemn as he nodded his head.

Only a slight glance had almost cost Leylin his life, which left him a lingering fear. Moreover it had resolved his determination to climb up in the ranks of the food chain.

“I don’t wish for my soul to crumble immediately in the future just because a high ranking Magus crosses my path in the future. This would really be a grievance!”

Although higher ranking Magus could exercise restraint on their forcefields, it would mean that they were showing their softer side. Leylin could not imagine anyone doing that for him.

“Alright now! Welcome back son!”

After healing Leylin, Kroft revealed a sincere smile.

“Being able to see you again is really great!” Leylin also smiled as he hugged his professor.

At this moment, only then he had time to view the casualties in his own academy.

Due to the teaming up of the other two academies, a huge number of

Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's acolytes had perished previously in the war. Right now it seems that Abyssal Bone Forest Academy suffered an even more severe casualty count.

At this moment, behind the professors, there was only a few scattered acolytes standing behind him. Most of them carried injuries with a gloomy expression.

"Leylin!" A pleasantly surprised voiced sounded in his ear.

"Bicky!" Leylin smiled warmly and hugged the curvaceous and beautiful Bicky.

"Very good. I still believed in you...." Tears welled up in Bicky's eyes.

It seemed like she was worried about Leylin but that she did not know he was the mysterious man who had saved her before.

Leylin took another look at Bicky and was rather surprised when she was actually not injured the slightest, only that her mental state did not seem to to be in the best condition. He could not help but feel so as even if it was a Level 3 Acolyte from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, under the oppression in numbers from their enemy, they may not be able to protect their lives.

As if seeing Leylin's bewilderment, Bicky spoke on her own accord, "I met Molly right after entering. Also, I met with an extremely powerful enemy acolyte, but a stranger saved me. After that, I met Fayle and it was him who kept me by his side, so I was able to live up till now.

Bicky pointed at an acolyte behind a professor.

Leylin looked over, and it was indeed Fayle who he saw before. After a span of 3 years, he seemed to be even more mature and had more charisma.

With a Level 3 Acolyte protecting her coupled with some luck, it was probable that she could survive. Leylin nodded his head and did not ask further.

After casually exchanging a few sentences with Bicky, Leylin looked at

the secret plane's exit. Most of them were enemy acolytes streaming out, where very few Abyssal Bone Forest Academy acolytes came out. Leylin sighed inwardly, "It seems that this time Abyssal Bone Forest Academy suffered a great loss. I'm afraid that there will be a scenario where Abyssal Bone Forest Academy would have more professors than acolytes period of time.

Peng! At this moment, another acolyte walked out from the exit.

This acolyte wore the grey robes of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and had several holes in them. Injuries seemed to riddle his body and there was even traces of blood. Moreover, an arm was missing.

"It's Jayden!" Leylin's pupils contracted.

Towards magicians, missing a limb was no big issue. There were various and mysterious spells which could regrow their limbs.

Jayden braced himself and walked several steps forward. After seeing his professor from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, he smiled and fainted immediately.

Shua! A white figure immediately appeared in front of Jayden and caught him.

After the white flash stopped, Leylin saw the appearance of the Magus within - It was a skeleton with an underworld flame in its eyes!

"Professor Dorotte!" Leylin called out the name of this set of bones.

Previously, it was Dorotte who led Leylin into Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Moreover, he was Jayden's mentor and even gave Jayden a Magic Artifact. It seemed like he doted on Jayden rather much.

"Alright! After my detection, there are no more surviving acolytes inside the secret plane. Seal the exit!"

The black robed figure standing before the 3 chairmen spoke.

Once he spoke, the 2 camps sank into deep silence, before the murmuring and sighing noises sounded incessantly.

"No! Where is my Torash? He is definitely still inside!"

“Silver-Claw Saurun? Hurry and come out! He is a genius acolyte, how could the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy manage to defeat him?”

.....

“Morphis! Morphis, where are you?”

Constant cries were heard from the enemy camp.

And the Abyssal bone Forest Academy’s party seemed to have already expected this. Although the numbers of dead acolytes were many, the reactions of all professors were much lower than what Leylin had expected.

Even for the Potioneering talent Merlin, his responsible Professor (Kroft) only let out a soft dismal gasp upon receiving news of his death.

“Torash! Torash! I left Spiritual Force coordinates on his body; he should be present amongst us here!”

On the opposite side, a blue bearded old guy yelled madly, following which he chanted an incantation.

Bang!

A bright blue beam of light drifted floated above Jayden who had fainted. Within this light an indistinct badge of an acolyte could be seen .

“Argh! No! My Torash! I will kill you!”

The expression on the face of the blue bearded old guy contorted, where a massive thunderstorm appeared midair above him.

“Torash’s power, when compared to this, is absolutely rubbish.” Leylin gulped, and suddenly felt extremely lucky.

Chapter 99: Grine Water

“Inside the secret plane, one must take responsibility for themselves in the bloodbath; do you wish to violate the agreement?”

Under the massive thunderstorm, Dorotte stood up with many faint silver beast claws on his back.

“Enough!”

The black-robed figure standing in front of the 3 chairmen spoke, and a gigantic dark green hand grabbed at the sky. Weng Weng! The massive lightning was immediately scattered by the giant hand.

“I have said before to abide by the agreement!” The black-robed figure growled.

At the same time, the blue-bearded geezer spurted a huge mouthful of blood. Anger was quickly replaced with fear as he knelt down, “Sir, please forgive an old man, who has just lost his nephew, with your magnanimity!”

“Just this once! If not, I will extract your soul and roast it in the abyss for ten thousand years!”

The black-robed figure spoke again.

The blue-bearded geezer then went back to his academy’s camp, before giving Jayden a vicious look.

This hatred and determination of killing Jayden gave Dorotte a headache. Crackling and rattling noises could be heard from the skeletal figure.

“Although this time nothing has happened, Jayden will definitely be pursued by Blue-Beard unless he keeps hiding inside the academy!”

Leylin’s eyes turned cold.

Earlier, the A.I. Chip picked up several traces of energy waves from spells.

Obviously, it was the search for the enemy who had killed their genius

acolyte! If Leylin were to still keep those items that carried their traces, his outcome would now be the same as Jayden.

Those professors who had had their personal apprentices or successors killed by the other party – who was also their sworn enemy – swore they would make the killer pay with their blood!

As for the casualties of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, they were not considered because the other two academies were facing many more losses.

Although they were bound by the agreement and vigilance of the Lighthouse of the Night, as far as Magi were concerned, if they were to pay the price, they could indirectly find a way to exact their revenge!

For example, not taking action themselves, but suggesting to Magi outside of the agreement to act on their behalf. The black market was also an option worth considering.

.....

Late in the night, Leylin returned to his resting area and laid down on his bed. In his hands was a faint yellow test tube that he kept on toying with.

The test tube was made of faint yellow crystals, and its density was extremely high. Holding it in his hands, he sensed a rather heavy feeling.

These crystals were made from a precious ingredient - Nitrogen Crystals. Any spell that was 20 degrees or lesser would not be able to damage it.

Using these Nitrogen Crystals to make a test tube – this was often used to store potions which were more valuable.

According to the olden texts, test tube made from Nitrogen Crystals were known to have preserved the contents even after a thousand years.

Within the faint yellow test tube, there was a ball of translucent liquid.

Leylin casually swirled the test tube. Under the refraction of the light, the liquid within gave off a rainbow-coloured glow, as it continuously whirled, seemingly beautiful.

“This is the Grine Water of the myths which could aid acolytes to

breakthrough into an official Magus!” Leylin looked at the test tube and muttered.

Earlier, under the suppression of the Magus from Lighthouse of the Night, the chairmen of Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle had had no choice but to bow their heads, then leading their acolytes away.

Even Torash’s professor was not that stupid to offend the high ranking Magus for the second time.

As for Leylin and the rest, they were led back to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy by their professors.

Leylin intentionally glanced and saw that at this moment the acolytes in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy did not amount to over 50.

As for any regular academy, they would have thousands of acolytes!

One can say that Sage Gotham’s Hut and Whitewoods Castle had accomplished their mission by almost swallowing the entire batch of successors in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy; if it were not for the fact that a few of their genius acolytes had perished inside the secret plane!

Even so, they originally had 200 acolytes enter the secret plane. Yet in the end only about a hundred came out from it.

Compared to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, this was considered a great victory.

“However... All these have nothing to do with me!” Leylin looked at the potion in his hands that seemed like an illusion.

“What matters is that I got the Grine Water! Moreover, the academy has an anonymous exchange policy, which is extremely thoughtful for its acolytes!”

On the way back to the academy, Leylin and the fortunate surviving acolytes were told about the contribution points they obtained and the details of it, where they can undergo the exchange privately.

Furthermore, the person that was in charge of the exchange was an alchemy beast created by the chairman with no human feelings

whatsoever, so it wouldn't reveal the acolytes' exchanges.

One can say that although Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was extremely bloodthirsty, where there was a strong culture of the strong eats the weak, towards the protection of acolytes with true strength and abilities, they still did a rather good job.

Leylin only barely managed to scrape 50 contribution points, exchanging for a standard amount of Grine Water.

As for the catalogue on the contribution points exchange list, there were various precious ingredients, Rank 1 spell models, and even Spiritual Force Potions. Looking on, Leylin felt overwhelmed by it.

At that time, deep down Leylin had some regret over not taking the few genius acolytes' badges along with him.

However, after seeing Jayden with a gloomy expression, Leylin very soon buried this tinge of regret deep inside his heart.

Although Torash's badge was worth at least 50 contribution points, which could be exchanged with many resources, the look that other acolytes had when they saw Jayden was full of pity.

Incurring the wrath of an official Magus for these resources, was it really worth it?

Moreover, the other professors did not know of their apprentices' scores, yet Dorotte knew Jayden's amount of contribution points like the back of his hand. Before anything else, at the very least, half of Torash's contribution points would be taken by Dorotte.

After all, he defended an opposing Rank 1 Magus for Jayden!

"Before becoming an official Magus, it is best to maintain a low profile. There won't be anything wrong with that!" Seeing Jayden's outcome, Leylin steeled his heart with this resolve.

His senior Merlin was a great example of this.

Merlin's achievements and talent in Potioneering could be said to be extraordinary. If not for Leylin cheating by using the A.I. Chip, he would

definitely be left far behind in this aspect.

But so what?

It was due to Merlin's reputation that made his enemies concentrate their attacks on him, finally causing him to die during the secret plane's bloodbath.

No matter how genius an acolyte was before they manage to grow strong, they weren't even comparable to a pebble on the road.

As for Leylin, he always created the false image of being inferior to Merlin, allowing Merlin to attract the attention off from him. He successfully managed to divert his enemy's attention, so there were very few that bothered about him inside the secret plane.

"However, this trick will not work for the time being!"

Leylin toyed with the Grine Water in his hands, his face gradually turning solemn.

The surviving acolytes after the bloodbath amounted to less than 50, which was even less than the number of professors.

Moreover, all survivors will be deemed as elites!

Under these circumstances, greater attention will be paid to any acolytes!

Leylin did not have any confidence whatsoever to try anything funny for the fear of being discovered.

"Perhaps, I should make a trip outside. Previously, Roman spoke of the high-grade meditation technique. If I found it, it would definitely be much better than the Grine Water..."

Previously, before the Fallen Star Pendant was completed, Leylin had managed to swindle much information from that vengeful spirit, Roman, regarding the information of high-grade meditation technique left behind by the Great Magus Serholm.

According to Roman, the inheritance of Great Magus Serholm was located inside the Dylan Gardens of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

Magi who used high-grade meditation techniques were definitely stronger than Magi who used the Grine Water to breakthrough! Moreover, more potential would be realised, revealing more possibilities for future development.

Leylin wanted to climb to the apex of the Magus World. If he wished to have the potential for future advancements, using the Grine Water to breakthrough would be his last resort.

Thinking of the Fallen Star Pendant, Leylin removed the silvery grey cross from his neck.

On the surface of the cross was embedded with various colours of gemstones, which looked to be an impeccable art piece.

However, right now the gemstones on the Fallen Star Pendant seemed to glow dimly, as it had undergone a huge consumption.

[Fallen Star Pendant: Low-grade Magic Artifact. Effect: Instantly cast a defence. Current condition: All energy consumed, 0%]

The A.I. Chip showed the stats of the Fallen Star Pendant to Leylin.

Fallen Star Pendant – it was the item that attributed the most to Leylin's survival and killing the geniuses of the enemy this time.

The instantaneous layer of defense that the silvery cross radiated, no matter if it was physical or magical resistance, had reached a very high degree. Few below the ranks of an official Magus could penetrate its defenses.

However, in any world, the law of conservation of energy must be fulfilled. Every time the Fallen Star Pendant was activated, it required a consumption of energy. Once the energy was fully consumed, it wouldn't be anything more than a pretty necklace!

"The Fallen Star Pendant's defence is rather good, only that the energy is not enough!"

Leylin felt somewhat regretful, "A.I. Chip! Establish mission. Apart from the calculation ability for the Host, use all remaining computation abilities

to find out ways to conserve the energy of the Fallen Star Pendant!”

[Beep! Mission establishing! Beginning to use idle processes to calculate, time is unknown!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Leylin nodded his head and came to the experiment at the side. He placed the Fallen Star Pendant in the centre of a mysterious spell formation. Around it, were many blue glittering stones.

“Activating process of recharging!”

Weng Weng! With the command of Leylin, faint blue light beams shone from the formation. Starlight was extracted from these stones and placed into the Fallen Star Pendant.

[Fallen Star Pendant recharging in process, current state: 1%....] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

The recharge of the Fallen Star Pendant actually only required for starlight to be shone on it. As long as it was bathed in starlight when the energy was fully consumed, the Fallen Star Pendant would automatically complete the recharging process.

However, in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, wanting to bathe it in starlight was an impossible task. Thus, Leylin could only use other methods to conduct the recharging process.

Chapter 100: An Exception

Time passed by.

The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's professors and acolytes had gradually recovered from all these sad events and adapted themselves to the present situation.

The current Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had almost become a tomb.

Within such a great academy, one would rarely see another soul.

The classrooms were vacant, the Trading Area was left uninhabited and even the academy's mission area – which has a large, wide wall; on which the missions were hung up – only had a few acolytes accepting missions.

The entire Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had sunk into a stillness as silent and steady as a grave.

In these circumstances, if an ordinary person were to stay here, he would be frightened to death!

However; the great thing was that the acolytes who survived the bloodbath, as well as other professors, were extremely resolute; so they were able to maintain the operations of the academy, even under such circumstances.

However, these state of affairs would not last very long.

According to Leylin's guess, the enrollment period for new acolytes joining the academies of the South Coast was fast approaching.

This time, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy would certainly lower their requirements. Then a large number of acolytes would be able to join and thus reinstate the glory on the surface.

But the nurturing of any talented acolyte will consume a vast amount of time and energy, and not to mention the aptitude of 5th-grade acolytes – where and how would it be easy to find one with such a talent?

The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's heritage had declined drastically during Leylin's generation. It was likely that at least 10 years would be

required to regain their former level of glory.

However, Leylin wasn't greatly concerned about these issues.

He once again returned to a thread-like monotonous life – he would cooperate with his professor in his experiments and thus learn from experience.

Meanwhile, he took advantage of the privileges granted to a Level 3 Acolyte – he purchased large amounts of magical resources and stored information on advanced subjects.

Leylin's aptitude in the Magus World was considered average, neither high nor low, but it was rather decent.

Moreover, he had succeeded in advancing to a Level 3 Acolyte. In the future, there would be plenty of time for him to breakthrough into an official Magus!

Considering this point, regardless of a professor or an acolyte, all would regard him as a person of very great importance.

Whenever Leylin encounters an official Magus, he would greet them. In return, they would nod their heads in recognition and approval. Also, when acolytes see Leylin from afar, they would immediately greet him.

As for Nyssa and the rest, they did not dare to appear in front of Leylin.

Thinking of Nyssa, Leylin could not help but feel happy for her. In such a bloodbath, she was actually able to preserve her life and even obtain a few contribution points, which was an extremely difficult thing to do.

He overheard that Nyssa had been able to exchange her contribution points for a potion to increase Spiritual Force and was preparing to breakthrough to Level 3 Acolyte.

"I hope she succeeds! To heal her body, she needs to, at least, become a proper Magus!"

Leylin thought of Nyssa's injuries and was somewhat dismayed. Right now, in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy; there was only himself, Nyssa, and Jayden who hailed from the Chernobyl Islands.

These thoughts only passed through Leylin's mind. Very soon, he concentrated on the book in front of him.

The book in his hands was extremely thick, the same thickness of two bricks together. However, the paper's surface was extremely small. This was the style of ancient books.

"Mother Earth laid down on the ground and gave birth to 7 children. They are Anger, Sorrow, Greed, Sloth, Lust, Gluttony, and Fear. Each of her children inherited one of their mother's power, where they could rip apart mountains and part seas...."

The book in Leylin's hands concerned myths.

"The ancient writing is extremely obscure, in it, many information about Magi is concealed..."

Leylin's eyes flashed as he commanded, "A.I. Chip! Record!"

Ever since Leylin registered under the administrative area and became a potential Magus, he managed to obtain more access within Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

One of this was to peruse the hidden library section!

Of course, within these books, many information regarding official Magus were erased. At the very most, they were briefly mentioned in passing, with cryptic writings. Normally, people would just gloss over this information.

Even so, Leylin with the A.I. Chip obtained much more information from this hidden library section.

First of all, the A.I. Chip had recorded almost all information that was beneath the topics of Magi. Right now, Leylin could vouch for himself that most professors in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy could not match his knowledge concerning acolytes.

This was a great foundation buildup for Leylin in the acolyte level.

At least now he was aware of the mistakes from breaking through to a Level 3 Acolyte and even tried to correct them.

One should not look down on such information. If the mistakes are not corrected, even after Leylin becomes an official Magus, his Spiritual Force would stall for a long period of time, with no chance of ever breaking through.

Furthermore, Leylin found some content regarding advanced meditation techniques.

According to these bits and pieces, together with Roman's information, Leylin could confirm that the chairman of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and those leaders of major guilds and magisterium in the South Coast used these advanced meditation techniques to break through.

Hence, they were able to achieve their current levels.

As for the majority of the Magi in the South Coast, as well as many professors in the academies, they did not know of the existence of advanced meditation techniques. They used Grine Water to breakthrough, causing them to remain at the level of Rank 1 Magus for their entire life!

After looking at all these, Leylin completely sealed the notion of using Grine Water to breakthrough.

"It seems like heading towards the Zither Moon Mountain Plains and obtaining the advanced meditation technique that the Great Magus Serholm left behind is necessary for future developments!"

Leylin closed the book slowly and left the library.

Leylin had used the A.I. Chip to record most of the information in the hidden library section. In the future, no matter where he was, he could always perform a search with the A.I. Chip. It was equivalent to carrying a large-scale, intelligent library with him at all times.

"Professor!"

Leylin went to Kroft's lab and bowed to Kroft, who was carrying out an experiment.

Although Kroft was the same as before, Leylin found that his eyes were somewhat dimmed. It seems that Merlin's death had slightly impacted

this old man of more than 100 years of age.

“Leylin, my child!” After seeing Leylin, Kroft smiled and he looked to be more focused.

“Regarding my suggestion from before, have you decided on an answer?” Kroft asked.

“Yes, Professor!” Leylin bowed once more. “I appreciate that the Leslie Family thinks highly of me, but I wish to try breaking through on my own!”

After hearing Leylin’s reply, Kroft’s expression darkened. However, Leylin’s talent in Potioneering was admirable, even to Kroft. After knowing that Merlin died, Leylin had become his best apprentice, so he could not help but advise again.

“The Leslie Family is a great one, with Potioneering as their niche. In there, your talents will definitely be displayed to the fullest. Moreover, the Leslie Family has sincerity, where the contract conditions are much better than the academy’s.”

Leylin displayed a very keen look, but deep down he had rejected Kroft’s proposition without the slightest hesitation.

After the bloodbath, Leylin’s position in Kroft’s heart was elevated.

Previously, when they spoke, Kroft represented the Leslie Family in supporting him and made an offer to Leylin.

Leslie Family was one of the large-scale Magus Family in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, with many Magi supporting it.

Kroft was one of its members.

Having a long standing tradition and history with Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the Leslie Family also possessed a copy of a Rank 1 Spell and Grine Water.

What Kroft suggested was the same contract signed with the academy. The Leslie Family would also give a Rank 1 Spell model and a Grine Water in exchange.

Compared to a contract with the academy, a contract with a family would have fewer restraints. However, this was not in line with Leylin's interests.

No matter how powerful the Leslie Family was, would they be able to provide an advanced meditation technique?

Looking at Kroft, who did not have a single high-grade meditation technique, he already knew the answer.

Under the inheritance of Great Magus Serholm, Leylin hoped that he would never have to join a Magi Family and put restrictions on himself!

Moreover, Leylin was a person who valued freedom. Unless he was in a desperate situation, he would never consider selling himself to be contracted with a family.

"All these, I know, Professor! But..."

Leylin raised his head, his eyes showing an unshakeable resolve and determination.

"I still wish to try on my own! If I were to fail, I promise you, Professor, that I will definitely prioritise and consider the Leslie Family!"

"You..."

Various expressions flashed across Kroft's face. Looking at the most outstanding acolyte he had right now, he suddenly felt a little helpless. "Alright then! You are only 17 now! Youth is precious, it allows you to make mistakes!"

Kroft looked at Leylin and was reminded of his younger self. His eyes revealed that he was recalling a memory.

"Thank you, professor!" Even though Kroft was unreasonable, Leylin was somewhat moved. He never wanted harm to befall his apprentices. This trait was rather praiseworthy within Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

"In that case... How do you plan to overcome this obstacle to becoming an official Magus?" Kroft asked.

"This..." Leylin shook his head, as if in 'embarrassment', revealing an

apologetic expression.

“I heard that Professor Dorotte had a piece of remnant information concerning official Magus...”

“Haha...” Kroft laughed, “So this was your plan!”

In the South Coast, the information to become an official Magus was often controlled by large guilds, but there was always an exception!

Chapter 101: Branded Swordsman

After many discussions, the major Magisteriums in the South Coast had all unanimously agreed to restrict the advancement to an official Magus.

Under the purview of the contract, all guilds must abide by it solemnly, to control the acolyte's advancement to an official Magus. Even if it was the academy or family absorbing newcomers, they must swear to a strict secrecy.

There was an exception – information found within historical items and places!

In the expanse of the South Coast, there were many traces of the Magi remnants.

All of them were located in extremely perilous locations. Even official Magi had to risk their lives to search for a piece of them.

Moreover, even if they were remnants, one cannot be sure of their contents.

Take Leylin for example, previously he spent a countless amount of resources and effort, yet he obtained nothing in the end. It was an extremely common situation.

However, once Magi discovered a trace of ancient remnants and obtain their inheritance or other precious resources, it would be the start of another legend!

Although searching for remnants had many unforeseeable dangers, it still drove many Magi to seek them.

The restrictions on the knowledge to advance to an official Magus was signed by all Magisteriums and guilds of the South Coast. Hence, any remnants that existed before the agreement were very likely to contain information regarding official Magus advancement!

This was the reason for the birth of a few guildless official Magi!

According to the information gathered from Leylin's inquiries, Dorotte

became an official Magus only after he discovered a piece of information related to advancement while adventuring.

Although the amount of information missing was over 60% of the original and it was definitely not possible to become a Magus just by relying on it, it was still very precious!

Moreover, Leylin was only a Level 3 Acolyte. Before he became a Magus, he wasn't sure of his importance to Dorotte and whether he could conduct such an important transaction with him.

To obtain this piece of information, it could only be carried out through Kroft.

“Alright then! However, you should know the rarity of information concerning the advancement to an official Magus. What are you planning to exchange for it?”

“Although the information is extremely valuable, this and other single-use records are vastly different. I believe that this will leave Professor Dorotte satisfied!”

Leylin said as he put a hefty bag in Kroft's hands.

“Moreover, after obtaining this piece of information, Professor you can also have a copy of it!”

Towards Leylin's suggestion, Kroft only raised his eyebrows, not saying anything.

But when he opened the bag, he could not help but sigh. “That old bag of bones Dorotte, would most likely not be able to reject you!”

Leylin smiled.

In the bag he handed to Kroft, not only was it filled with a large number of Magic Crystals and precious ingredients, there was also a Flourishing Flower.

This ingredient was extremely difficult to obtain and had regenerative abilities for magicians with broken limbs.

As for the environment required for the Flourishing Flower to thrive, it

must be in a place with a large number of vengeful spirits. Every day, it would be watered with the blood of dying people in order to grow.

These ingredients were not common even in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

After all, in the breeding of artificial spirits, the research done by Abyssal Bone Forest Academy were far less suitable compared to Leylin, who had the help from A.I. Chip.

If not for the news to recall Leylin, he would have already completed this nurturing experiment.

As for this Flourishing Flower, it was a by-product from the experiment lab.

Currently, Dorotte was looking all over for materials to regenerate Jayden's arm, these materials were an enticement which Dorotte could not refuse!

Although he knew this, Leylin was still apprehensive about giving away such a precious material.

As he had produced a Void Flower in the past and now that he had produced another precious ingredient, the Flourishing Flower, it would be hard to prevent suspicion.

But if he wanted a favour from Dorotte, he could not avoid bringing out this Flourishing Flower.

And he was fortunate that this item was rare.

Within the Magus World, there were many examples of frustrated and destitute acolytes who had stumbled across ancient remnants of Magi and turned into an official Magus becoming an overlord of a region.

Compared to them, Leylin's luck was only so-so.

.....

Three days later, within the laboratory.

Leylin's wish had at last been fulfilled and now he held the information

in his hands.

“Branded Swordsman? What’s that?” Leylin frowned, “Wasn’t this supposed to have something to help me become a Magus?”

“Haha... when I first received this, I was also rather doubtful. But Dorotte explained it to me,” said Kroft.

“Leylin! Magi are people who possess mysterious powers! In ancient times, those with great power were often labelled as magicians! As for Branded Swordsman, through the alchemical runes, a magic spell formation would be branded on their body, allowing them to gain power. It is a small division of the ancient Magi!”

Kroft began teaching Leylin, “I see that you are now a Knight. Therefore, as far as you are concerned, it is indeed appropriate for you to become a Branded Swordsman.”

“I understand!”

Leylin was peering through a scrap of information as he said, “Branded Swordsman seem to emphasize more of physical strength training. Through the regular practice and branding, nature’s strength would be stored inside their body. In crucial moments, the energy would erupt explosively....”

“Why does it seem to resemble... a Knight?” Leylin’s eyes flashed.

“Correct! You interpreted it well! Part of the information regarding the inheritance of ancient Branded Swordsman was widely spread. After some modifications, it was suited more towards regular humans. This turned into the creation of Knights and Grand Knights!”

Kroft nodded.

“Which is to say, a Branded Swordsman is an advanced version of a Knight!” Leylin had now gained some understanding.

“However, it’s a pity that more than 60% of the information is missing. Especially the part about branding and spell formation setting, it is almost all gone. Attempting to forcibly brand a spell formation on the body, will

only cause the Magus' Magic Power to be in a mess....”

A regretful look flashed across Kroft's face.

“In ancient times, the combination of Branded Swordsman and Magi were a nightmare to enemies of many other worlds....”

“Although this is the case, I am still very grateful to Professor!” Leylin bowed once again.

After walking out from the experiment lab, Leylin placed the book, which recorded the details of the Branded Swordsman, in his arms.

“Although it is quite dilapidated, I still have the A.I. Chip. Perhaps, I can use it to compute the remainder of the information. . .”

Leylin consoled himself, feeling much better suddenly.

He always liked to prepare a few backup plans.

The advanced meditation technique in Zither Moon Mountain Plains was only a myth. It was derived from a few broken pieces of information from Roman, which almost had zero credibility. If not for Leylin having seen similar content back in the experiment lab close to the Great Mankestre Snake's lair, he would most likely not believe in it.

Moreover, even if the Dylan Gardens existed, would there even be a piece of the Great Magus Serholm's inheritance? Even if there was, Leylin did not know if the advanced meditation technique was suitable for him.

By setting off, Leylin would be able to pick up a high-grade meditation technique that was suited to him; Leylin did not dare bet on his luck

Hence, the preparation of a backup plan and now it became necessary to carry it out.

He had a portion of the Grine Water, the A.I. Chip was also simulating the Rank 1 defensive spell model. Now he managed to obtain advanced information concerning Branded Swordsman. All these would be simulated into a completed piece of information regarding advancement.

Leylin decided that if he failed to discover anything in the Zither Moon Mountain Plains, he would apply for graduation. He would then roam the

South Coast, searching for remnants and obtaining information on high-grade meditation techniques.

If he did not obtain a meditation technique suited for him by 50, he would forcefully use the information in his hands to advance into a Magus.

Although this might cause difficulties for future advancements, Leylin felt that if he did not see any hope of advancement by 15, it was better to raise his strength before seeking better alternatives.

On the route back to the dorm.

Recently, Bicky had paid very few visits to him. In the vast level of the dorm, Leylin was the only one who lived here.

Leylin looked at the two sides of the dull and lifeless hall and sighed. "Although the concealment is not too bad, with fewer people coming to bother you, living in such a place is really somewhat dreary...."

After entering his own room in the dorm with the bright lamp, Leylin felt much better.

Walking to the simple experiment lab, Leylin thought in his mind.

"A.I. Chip! How is the progress on the simulation of Rank 1 Spell defensive model? Also the simulation the Grine Water?"

[Rank 1 defensive spell model simulation progress: 14.3%. Estimated completion: 765 days!]

Towards the simulation of a Rank 1 Spell model, the A.I. Chip gave an unexpectedly long duration. However, Leylin was extremely pleased with this.

Previously the A.I. Chip was not able to estimate the progress of a successful simulation. However, after recording the massive amount of information in the hidden library, the A.I. Chip finally allowed Leylin to see a glimmer of hope in a completed Rank 1 Spell model!

"As long as it can be completed! Two years, I can afford it!"

Two years later, Leylin would only be 19, still in the prime of Level 3

Acolyte. This was the benefit of youth, never fearing that time was not enough.

[Calculating Grine Water formula in progress: 5.32%. Estimated ingredients: Fruit of Thousand-Eyed Tree, fresh blood of a Giant Tidal Snake....]

[Estimated effect: A huge consumption on acolyte's life force, to stimulate breakthrough of Spiritual Force bottleneck!]

"So that's the case!" Looking at the A.I. Chip's analysis, Leylin finally knew why the academy viewed a Level 3 Acolyte below 20 years of age as potential Magus....

Grine Water's effect was to consume a magician's lifespan in exchange for a stimulated breakthrough.

The younger the acolyte, the more life force there is for consumption. Hence the higher possibility of a breakthrough.

Once an acolyte has an ageing body, they wouldn't be able to breakthrough even with Grine Water. This was because their physical body no longer had any more life force to be consumed.

"It seems that the previous situation has to be altered!"

Leylin stroked his chin. "The matter of searching for high-grade meditation technique will have to be pushed forward. Moreover, I cannot wait till I'm fifty! Thirty years old! After I'm thirty, if I haven't managed to find any high-grade meditation technique, I must try in breaking through!"

After firming his resolve, Leylin tidied up the experiment lab and took out an ancient Potioneering scroll.

Chapter 102: Brewing an Ancient Potion

“Ancient Medicine: Tears of Mary formula. Begin the 1,312,933rd drug simulation!”

Leylin had received 2 sheets of medicinal formulas from Professor Kroft. One of them was about the Azure Potion, for which he had found substitute ingredients that had helped him reach his current level.

The other one, Tears of Mary, involved the concepts from his soul research. This had left Leylin at a loss as to how he should proceed.

Afterwards, with the observations from the bulk experiments at Extreme Night City, Leylin had gathered vast amounts of data regarding souls, and was thus pushing for the analysis of the formula of the ancient drug, Tears of Mary.

Finally, after having obtained the Grine Water, the A.I. Chip had performed reverse engineering to find out the refining process of the Grine Water, and had eventually overcome the last obstacle in concocting the Tears of Mary.

However, to Leylin’s dismay, he found that some of the steps in the formula for the Tears of Mary could only be completed by an official Magus!

Moreover, many of the processes required huge reserves of Spiritual Force that was at least at the level of an official Magus.

This situation proved that Leylin’s prior guess was correct – the Tears of Mary was definitely the secret formula for the ancient Magi to increase their Spiritual Force!

Thus, Leylin’s eagerness to successfully configure the Tears of Mary was reinforced.

His Spiritual Force had not increased over a long period of time.

His body had developed a complete resistance to the modified Azure Potion, so even if he were to drink more of the potion, his Spiritual Force would not increase even a little bit.

Also, after having increased his Spiritual Force using medicine, trying to increase it using his regular meditation technique was something he couldn't endure because the rate of increase was similar to a tortoise's pace.

His current Spiritual Force was just not quite enough to be able to break through the boundary to become an official Magus.

According to the A.I. Chip's calculations and his own estimation, with his regular meditation, it would take him several years to become an official Magus!

Leylin could not wait that long, hence he brewed a new type of potion. Apart from that, he had been collecting other formulas all the while.

Other ancient potion formulas were mostly controlled by the official Magi. Leylin did not have many treasured ingredients with him that he could exchange for, and did not wish to draw too much attention to himself..

Moreover, compared to simulating and brewing an entire new formula, more than half of the formula for the Tears of Mary was solved so it was the better choice.

Leylin boldly replaced a few brewing processes that could only be executed by an official Magus into one that was suited for a Level 3 Acolyte to brew with.

After tens of thousands of modifications, together with the A.I. Chip's millions of simulations, Leylin's experiment now was very close to succeeding.

"First of all, I need the basic material for the formula, a female vengeful spirit!."

From the corner of his experiment desk, Leylin picked up a brand new Confining Spirit Sphere. Within it was a woman wearing a red gown, and looking at Leylin with an expression of fright.

The energy waves emitted from this female vengeful spirit which was not even close to those of Roman, who was only a Level 1 Acolyte.

After most of the acolytes in the academy had perished, it was the golden age of self-development for the surviving acolytes.

Originally, the resources for the acolytes in the academy had been for a thousand acolytes, but now, they had all been released for these 50 remaining acolytes.

Furthermore, the prices of all ingredients and spell models had been marked down drastically compared to the time before the bloodbath.

For example, a vengeful spirit was originally a rare commodity in the market. Once they had been seen on the market, they would have been bought immediately by acolytes, and the prices could have been up to 500 Magic Crystals.

As for now, Leylin went to the counter to look at the price, and bought it immediately. His expenditure did not even amount to 100 Magic Crystals!

Of course, this was a disguised reward from the academy to the survivors!

This situation continued all the way until the next batch of recruits.

However, in this discounted sale, Leylin quickly threw away the notion of reselling at a high price outside. The academy had long since forbidden this. If they were caught, the circumstances would be severe.

Leylin made use of this opportunity, and spent half of his Magic Crystals savings, buying a large amount of resources and strange spell models.

The female vengeful spirit in the Confining Spirit Sphere had long, silver hair; dark blue eyes; and soft, moistened lips. She also had a slender waist and long legs. When she was alive, she would have definitely been an outstanding woman who drove men crazy!

“What a pity!”

Leylin sighed, yet his hand continued to move and dropped a silver liquid onto the Confining Spirit Sphere.

This was the “Dissolving Spirit Potion”. Back when Leylin had specially prepared it for Roman, with only a few drops, Roman would have

definitely been shrieking for half a day, and even sustain a severe injury.

As of now, the remainder was used by Leylin here.

“Ah... It hurts! Please... I beg you! No...!”

The vengeful spirit continued to wail from within the crystal ball. Towards such an extraordinary woman, any man would have at least hesitated deep down within their heart.

However, Leylin's brows had not furrowed the slightest as he continued the movement with his hands.

As more of the Dissolving Spirit Potion was used, the pleading of the female vengeful spirit was becoming more and more muffled. Even her red robes were slowly dissolving, revealing an illusory, and yet alluring glowing skin.

“You want to entice me?” Looking at this scene, Leylin's lips curled up in ridicule.

“Vengeful spirit! Reveal your original ugly form!” Leylin raised a finger with a large, black needle protruding from the nail.

Sssii!

The black long needle pierced through the crystal ball, and directly into the chest of the female vengeful spirit.

“Argh!” The female vengeful spirit let off a hair-raising scream, and her body became blurry. Once she could be seen again, the vengeful spirit that was in front of Leylin's eyes had taken on a completely different form.

The face was filled with scales and wrinkles, and the orifices seemed to be misaligned, as though someone had casually attached them to her face. There were a few strands of green hair on the sides of her bald head.

The mouth opened and closed, and razor sharp teeth could be seen. From time to time, a disgusting, viscous liquid could be seen dripping from her scarlet tongue.

“Ao!”

The female vengeful spirit's eyes contained a greed that could rip people apart. She stared intently at Leylin as if wanting to gobble him down immediately.

“Your outer appearance and inner self are ugly throughout!”

.....

Leylin mocked her and laughed, before drawing another mysterious magic rune...

The experiment lasted for over a dozen hours and continued the way until the second day before the end was near.

Inside the experiment lab.

Inside a scarlet pentagonal formation, a naked body with bumps through could be seen. The beautiful face of the female vengeful spirit had been tied down by a metal chain, trapped within the spell formation.

At this moment, although the female vengeful spirit looked to be phantom, as if disappearing in the next moment, her face no longer had the craze and hate from before. Instead, there was a shy expression on it.

Combining with the binding of the metal chains, it even creates a sadomasochistic desire!

Leylin looked at the naked woman in front of him, his face revealing a satisfied expression. “After a long day, I have finally removed all of the grievances from it!”

“Thank you! Young man! However, could you release me and give me some clothes to wear?”

The woman spoke within the formation, her voice as delightful as a black-naped oriole bird.

“Are you joking? I spent so much effort to release you from your grievance, not for some gratification!”

After hearing Leylin's words, the female vengeful spirit suddenly felt that a calamity was looming over her.

Disturbed, crazed and pondering expressions flashed through Leylin's face. Finally, they all uniformed into only one expression—Apathy! Indifference towards everything!

.....

A few hours passed.

At this moment, there was a chill permeating the experiment lab.

One could almost hear the wails of vengeful spirits within these four walls.

As for the female vengeful spirit in front of Leylin, it had almost lost its human appearance.

"The last step!" Leylin picked up a silver fork and pierced the female vengeful spirit's head through the eyes.

"Pu!"

As if made from some special materials, the silver fork directly pierced through the female vengeful spirit's eyeball.

"Hehe!" The female vengeful spirit squirmed and screamed like a wild beast, as if without a tongue.

After the fork had pierced the eyeball, the face of the female vengeful spirit could barely be made out. Two trickles of blood tears flowed down.

"This is the ancient potion—Tears of Mary?"

Leylin raised his hand, dripping a few drops of blood in his hands.

An icy cold and viscous sensation was felt.

"The spirit is an illusory thing. As for me, I could actually come in contact with a spirit's tears, what a wonder...."

Leylin muttered as he smeared the red potion on his eyes.

Bang!

An extremely spicy sensation travelled from Leylin's eyes, causing immense pain.

Red! His vision could only see the colour red!”

There seemed to be a woman’s voice sounding inside his brain as if narrating something. The voice gradually grew louder and louder.

Finally, Leylin could only grab his head and head-butt viciously against the wall, to ease this symptom.

The A.I. Chip’s indicator appeared in front of Leylin.

[Subject underwent an unknown effect. Spiritual Force increased. Currently, it is 14.3....]

The data that represented Leylin’s Spiritual Force continuously increased.

14.8

15.3

15.8

16.1

The number which represented the Spiritual Force continuously rose, finally stopping at the number 16.1.

“Hu... It has finally passed!”

Leylin rubbed his temples firmly, as he inhaled a lungful of cold air.

“Although it’s very painful, the side effects are not too much...”

Before he could finish speaking, Leylin discovered that there was a thin layer of mist in the surroundings.

A flash of red colour robes streaked past in the room.

Leylin wanted to move, yet the air seemed to be extremely muddy like starch paste. Any movement would be difficult to execute!

Finally, the owner of the red robes appeared in front of Leylin – the vengeful spirit!

At this moment, more than half of the vengeful spirit’s head had dissolved.

“If it was another time! Such an attack!”

Leylin was extremely unwilling, but he was still struck in the chest by that claw.

An icy cold chill started to spread from his chest.

Chapter 103: A Meeting

The vengeful spirit wearing red robes continuously attacked, clawing strips of flesh off of Leylin's body.

Leylin's expression of anger turned into indifference.

A few minutes later, he opened his mouth with difficulty, "Gurisasi ~ duoluxian!"

A dark-green flame burned on Leylin's body, setting everything in the experiment lab ablaze....

"Hu..."

After the dark-green flame was extinguished, Leylin recovered his mobility.

At this moment, he finally had enough strength to look around at his surroundings.

The experiment lab was the same as before, all apparatus lying neatly in their original position.

As for the pentagon formation, it had lost all of its light, and the vengeful spirit was nowhere to be found.

On Leylin, there were no traces of injuries, yet his expression did not seem well.

It was because different indicators flashed from the A.I. Chip:

[Host has suffered from an unknown forcefield attack, determined from the database to be caused by a vengeful spirit! Vitality decreased by 0.1]

[Host has suffered from an unknown forcefield attack, determined from the database to be caused by a vengeful spirit! Vitality decreased by 0.1]

[Host has suffered from an unknown forcefield attack, determined from the database to be caused by a vengeful spirit! Vitality decreased by 0.1]

After 3 indications, Leylin's face looked even more awful, "A.I. Chip, show me my current status!"

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.4, Spiritual Force: 16.1, Magic Power: 16 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

After the upgrade from using Tears of Mary, Leylin's Spiritual Force reached 16.1. However, his Vitality decreased by 0.3. Clearly, this was caused by the attack of the vengeful spirit.

"As expected, an ancient potion's formulary cannot be modified so easily!"

Leylin sighed. He acted on his own initiative, changing many processes of the formulary, thus causing such an outcome.

"However, this decrease in Vitality, compared to the increase in Spiritual Force, shows the value of this potion!"

Leylin was certain of his modified formulary for the ancient potion, Tears of Mary.

"Ancient potion – Tears of Mary modification successful, Host to give a name!"

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"Blood Vengeance Potion!" Leylin thought of the final, flash of red, blurting out the name.

Although this potion requires a vengeful spirit as an ingredient, which was somewhat cruel, it was a potion that was hard to come by!

A single use could raise Spiritual Force by 3 points! The only minor backlash was : it was on the same level as the Azure Potion that Leylin had modified before.

As for the formulation process of this potion, it was somewhat ruthless. However, Leylin did not bother about it.

For Leylin, carrying out ruthless actions and even killing people, was well within reason when in the face of benefits!

People who only kill for joy were mental and inhumane.

In his previous world, the environment was peaceful, so naturally he had also advocated peace then.

However, in the Magus World, war was everywhere. Deaths occurred daily. The plebeians who faced dawn did not know if they would be alive to see the sun set.

The law of the jungle and survival of the fittest were proclaimed explicitly by various powerful guilds and organisations.

After coming to this world, Leylin followed 'when in Rome, do as the Romans do' and this became a completely egotistical person.

As long as this potion was beneficial and did not cause him much hassle, he would not hesitate to create more of it!

"This is the feeling of achieving 16 Spiritual Force, huh? How amazing!"

Leylin shut his eyes, feeling the difference this increase brought him.

Under his control, the Spiritual Force seemed to be a silver thread as it swept past every item in the room. Moreover, each of the item's physical shape was perceived within Leylin's mind.

For regular acolytes, this was an extremely fresh feeling. However, Leylin saw that after a certain standard was achieved in Spiritual Force, it had a scanning effect similar to that of the A.I. Chip!

"This effect, if mastered properly, could discover a majority of ambushes, never having to fear for another sneak attack!"

Leylin appreciated the wondrous use of the Spiritual Force.

"It's a pity, however. For me, this is not as useful as the A.I. Chip!"

In his sea of consciousness, waves of Spiritual Force constantly surged at the borders, continuously expanding the area of the sea.

"Only that this external change is too obvious!"

Leylin picked up a bronze mirror. On the screen of the bronze mirror, a brown-haired youthful countenance was reflected. However, a pair of gleaming eyes flashed like diamonds in the night.

Normally, the upper limits of Spiritual Force for Level 3 Acolytes were 15, yet Leylin far exceeded this figure.

Moreover, when Level 3 Acolytes were about to breakthrough into an official Magus, their eyes would often show unusual signs of attraction.

That was the result of the boundless expansion in their massive sea of consciousness.

However, for Leylin, this was not good news. To others, he was just a newly advanced Level 3 Acolyte, yet now he exceeded those limits, this would bring about curiosity and suspicion from others.

If it was some regular acolyte, Leylin wasn't too afraid. But if an official Magus required him to cooperate for questioning, then Leylin would meet with some trouble.

After all, Leylin had no confidence against official Magus since the A.I. Chip could not detect them.

"I can only conceal this for the time being!"

Leylin chanted a short incantation.

Creaking and cracking noises resounded on his face and his eyes dimmed, no longer radiating light.

This was a simple use of the Shapeshifting spell—the ability to modify facial features.

Many female official Magus would obtain such a spell and cast it on their faces, achieving a beautification effect.

"I hope this can conceal my presence for the time being!" Leylin was not confident.

After several modifications of the Shapeshifting spell by the A.I. Chip, Level 3 Acolytes would not be able to discover this.

However, Leylin was completely unsure if he could face an official Magus

If they just walked past him, they may not notice his concealment. As

long as they did not use any detection spells, he should be able to mask it.

Deep down in his heart, Leylin had already decided. After travelling around the Poolfield Kingdom and discovering the vestige traces, he would set off to Zither Moon Mountain Plains in search of the remnants of the Great Magus Serholm.

In any case, Leylin had expressed his interest to Kroft for wanting to travel, so suggesting it not did not seem too abrupt.

After making some arrangements, Leylin rubbed his rumbling stomach, giving a wry smile. His experiment had already extended over a day's worth of time.

No matter how high his Vitality was, he was still a mortal, unable to escape from the laws of nature. Hence, there were symptoms of hunger.

Although he could replenish his strength with potions, Leylin still felt nauseous. Moreover, if the circumstances allowed for a better option, he would not mistreat himself.

Since the academy had a restaurant, why waste a potion?

Leylin cleaned up and opened his dorm's door.

Pa! A white letter fell onto the ground. It seemed like someone paid Leylin a visit earlier. However, after seeing him concentrate on his experiment, they did not dare intrude, hence leaving a simple note.

"Who would it be? Bicky? Nyssa? Or someone else..."

Leylin opened the letter in curiosity.

After seeing the signature, Leylin's expression was shocked, "It's actually Jayden!"

As a fifth-grade genius acolyte, Jayden was somewhat of a lone wolf, seldom interacting with other acolytes.

As for now, Jayden actually took the initiative to meet with Leylin, which shocked Leylin.

"However, since he's visited me, then I'll meet him!"

After thinking for a while, Leylin raised his somewhat pale finger, directing scribbling on the white note.

Every time his finger drew across, red characters would be left on the note.

There was a simple spell cast on this paper note by Jayden, which could transmit some simple information. Of course, it was only usable in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy area, widely loved by acolytes.

The recipient's reply was extremely quick. Very soon, Leylin met up with Jayden inside of a room in the restaurant.

Jayden now seemed to be gloomier. Looking at the area of his severed limb, Leylin noticed that a slim tiny arm had regrown and could not help but laugh.

It seems that his Flourishing Flower had been given to Jayden by Dorotte. What he did not know was the promise Jayden had to make in exchange for the Flourishing Flower.

"I have not thanked you regarding the Flourishing Flower!"

Jayden sat on the white chair, raising his cup to Leylin.

This gesture was somewhat unethical. Leylin frowned internally, yet not did not outwardly speak much about it.

After looking for a chair to sit down, he ignored the delicacy and aroma displayed in front of him. Leylin smiled in sincerity, "Regarding the information of official Magus that Professor Dorotte had exchanged with me, I should be the one expressing my thanks!"

Naturally, Leylin had no clue that Dorotte had this information of advancing into a Branded Swordsman.

It was Jayden who had leaked the news to him. As for the reason why—it was probably due to Leylin 'accidentally' letting Jayden know that he had the Flourishing Flower.

For Leylin, he would reap the largest benefit from Jayden, who desperately needed the Flourishing Flower to regrow his limb.

Jayden's expression turned softer, "No matter what, we are acolytes who came from the same area, so it's well within reason to help each other...."

Leylin too gave him some superficial replies, before Jayden finally revealed his motive for seeking Leylin today.

"Leylin, Professor Dorotte had long since told me that the information he had given you, a major portion of it was missing. There is no way that it could be reliable for advancing into an official Magus. It is because you also want to look for other traces that you are eager to go exploring, isn't it?"

"Of course, no matter if it's the academy or the families, their conditions are too much!"

Leylin interlocked his fingers.

This notion was considered by many Level 3 Acolytes. Only when the adventure for the remnants was unfruitful and acknowledging that the golden period of advancement was almost over, would they then consider signing a spiritual contract with the academy or the families.

Chapter 104: Participation

“I just happen to have a trace of remnants regarding official Magus....” Jayden added.

After listening to Leylin’s reply, Jayden’s smile grew even wider.

“Remnants? Clues? You actually dare to go out?”

Leylin was somewhat shocked. In the eyes of an outsider, Jayden was the murderer of Torash from the enemy academy. The hatred held by the enemy official Magus was already locked onto him, yet he still dared leave for an exploration?

After hearing Leylin’s words, Jayden’s face darkened.

“I will kill that old geezer sooner or later! I’ll turn his corpse into a specimen and keep it in my lab...”

After cursing, Jayden then explained to Leylin, “The power of the Lighthouse of the Night is still formidable. Under the mediation of that lord Magus, the Sage Gotham Hut and the Whitewoods Castle would not dare to exact revenge hastily; not unless they wish to be destroyed!”

“On the contrary, with the passing of time, the treaty was agreed at a span of 20 years. My situation consists of constant dangers. Hence, for this, I have to retaliate somehow, to ensure myself with the ability to protect my life!”

“Becoming an official Magus?” Leylin’s brows furrowed as he guessed Jayden’s intention.

“Indeed! To go against an official Magus, one would only have the ability after becoming an official Magus!” A longing expression streaked across Jayden’s face, “Once I become an official Magus, why would I still be afraid of the enemy’s retaliation?”

Leylin nodded his head – Jayden’s train of thought was correct.

The protection of the academy and the professors were external factors, which could be removed at any given time. Only the strength that belongs

to oneself is the most reliable factor!

After understanding the situation briefly, Leylin began to relax, slowly reclining in his chair.

“So then, I have two questions. Where are the remnants? Why me?”

Jayden inhaled a lungful of air and knew that if he did not reveal any information, Leylin would naturally not take the bait.

“I cannot reveal the location of the remnants. However, I can tell you the general location. It’s near Zither Moon Mountain Plains....”

Upon speaking the four words, ‘Zither Moon Mountain Plains’, Leylin’s pupils contracted, yet very soon he recollected himself. This change, which happened within a fraction of a second, went completely unnoticed by Jayden.

“As for why I sought you out?”

Jayden smiled wryly, “Zither Moon Mountain Plains is littered with poisonous plants and miasma. A Potioneering acolyte needs to come along, to ensure our safety... Right now in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the person I am familiar with, who is also a Level 3 Acolyte, is only you....”

Leylin stared blankly, only then did he recall that the acolytes in the academy barely amounted to 50.

Back when Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had thousands of acolytes, there were plenty of Potioneering acolytes around. Hence, Jayden could take his time to choose.

However, after the bloodbath, Jayden’s choice was extremely limited, so much so that the only option left was—Leylin!

“Although I don’t know if the remnants that Jayden mentioned were left behind by the Great Magus Serholm; since the vengeful spirit Roman had found clues to it, it’s well within reason that Jayden had discovered something too....”

Thoughts spun in Leylin’s head, yet on the surface, he looked hesitant.

“The war has just ended. Right now it’s too dangerous to leave the

academy....”

“According to my sources, the remnants are of an official Magus. There could very well be information and resources on advancing into an official Magus. Isn’t that what you need right now? Moreover, as long as you agree to participate, the reward aspects...”

After looking at Leylin’s expression, Jayden felt hurried, hence, he continued to elaborate, even adding a few bargaining chips.

Leylin put on a struggling expression, finally agreeing to give it some thought over these couple of days.

After seeing Leylin act like this, Jayden could only consent.

After all, apparently Leylin seemed to be somewhat moved towards the end.

As expected, on the second day, Leylin sought out Jayden, informing him of his decision to participate.

.....

Early in the morning

Leylin and Jayden rode on two black horses each, leaving the compound of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy under the rays of the dawning sun.

Before leaving, Leylin looked at the distant graveyard of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy for one last time.

The grey granite construction seemed to be littered with cracks, as before. However, it might just have been a misconception, but those cracks were seemingly smaller now.

It was as if this massive graveyard was a living organism amidst the processes of recovery.

“The next time I return, there will surely be many changes!”

After that last glance at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Leylin disappeared into the dark forest.

.....

Five days later, within the Poolfield Kingdom, on the outskirts of a province in the west.

On the road, 3 acolytes were waiting.

Ta Ta Ta! As the 3 people looked away into the distance, two figures on horseback appeared on the horizon.

Those two riders stopped in front of the 3 people, revealing the countenance that belonged to Leylin and another unfamiliar acolyte.

“Leylin, let me introduce to you, this is Mister Bosain, from the Lilytell Family....”

The stranger’s voice belonged to Jayden, as he introduced them to Leylin. To avoid trouble, Jayden had masked his appearance.

“Also, this is Shaya and Roth!”

Jayden introduced the group to Leylin. Bosain had golden bright hair and wore silver robes – appearing dressed very grandly. If not for the acolyte mark, Leylin would even think that it was some professor who joined Jayden’s group.

However, Jayden specially emphasised on the Mister honorific and the explanation on the Lilytell Family, giving Leylin a shock.

“Lilytell Family? One of the big-three families in the academy, where every generation has produced at least one official Magus?”

“Indeed, in addition, the chairman of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was elected by the big three families.”

Bosain added, pride evident on his face.

“Which is to say, he could have direct access to high-grade meditation techniques! Or, I can...” Leylin outwardly displayed a shocked expression with a tinge of envy, satisfying the ego of Bosain.

However deep down, he had some villainous thoughts.

As for Shaya, she was a fire-haired female acolyte, reminding Leylin of Neela. Ever since his return to the academy, he hasn’t seen Neela once.

She could be dead, or she did not receive the academy's notice. There was also the possibility that she abandoned the academy and escaped.

Towards her, Leylin only sighed gently, before removing her from his thoughts.

As for the last member of the small party—Roth—he was the archetype male of the West. His stature was tall and big, taller than Leylin by half a head, his face containing a simple and honest expression.

However, Leylin did not dare to be careless. Acolytes who could survive in the bloodbath were not simple characters.

Moreover, these 3 people had the energy waves of Level 3 Acolytes. Bosain and Shaya even had the aura of Magic Artifacts on their body, as detected by the A.I. Chip.

“Hello! I’m Leylin, a Potioneering acolyte, I hope that...”

Leylin introduced himself to the rest.

“The Zither Moon Mountain Plains is perilous, however, I have heard of your reputation being only lower to the Potioneering genius Merlin! I believe that you would ensure our logistics and safety. . . ”

Bosain smiled amiably at Leylin, giving a feeling of warmth.

“I’ll try my best!” Leylin nodded his head.

“Alright! It’s getting late, let’s set off!”

Leylin nodded his head, and the five of them began their journey.

However, deep down, Leylin was somewhat disgruntled towards Jayden’s action of adding more members without consulting him. He certainly did not approve of the current situation.

Moreover, Bosain’s identity seemed to give him a troublesome feeling.

As if noticing something, Jayden engaged in a private conversation to explain to him.

“Bosain and the rest found out about my plans incidentally and insisted on joining. For this reason, he did not hesitate to keep the truth from his

own family members and his professor, and sneaked out of the academy!" Jayden smiled wryly, "You know it as well, I am unable to refuse them!"

For the big families behind the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, it was the most dangerous period right now since the war ended. Bosain, as the successor of the family, has to always be inside the academy compounds.

However, now he did not even bring a bodyguard, which indicated that this was a covert exploration. Even his family did not know of his destination.

Concerning this, Leylin could only smile wryly and be more wary of his surroundings, with no better idea in mind.

The Zither Moon Mountain Plains was situated on the western borders of the Poolfield Kingdom. It was the boundary between the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the Sage Gotham Hut.

These two forces had just ended a huge war and Jayden even carried a blood debt since he killed the enemy's genius. Once this party was discovered, they would definitely have problems.

No matter if it was Leylin or Jayden, or Bosain and the rest, they were all intelligent and conscientious people. Moreover at crucial moments, they had the courage to fight for their lives.

Along the way, the five of them changed their travelling outfits into those of young, noble masters and mistress, continuously travelling along the western borders.

Without a doubt, it wouldn't be inaccurate to say that knowledge and power were wielded in the hands of nobles. In the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, most acolytes were born of nobility and had no need to learn how to dress as one.

This was why the five of them dressed as nobility. Their disposition was naturally formed, if they were to dress as someone else, they would definitely be noticed.

Leylin too tried to get closer with the other 3 acolytes.

Shaya and Roth were rather friendly. The most important factor was that Leylin was also a Level 3 Acolyte, moreover, he was acknowledged by them in having talent in Potioneering, so they were somewhat friendly.

As for Bosain, he had the behaviour of being an elite amongst magicians.

Refined and courteous, yet arrogant to the skies. He had the deceitful characteristics of the nobility, so he appeared somewhat indifferent towards Leylin and the other acolytes.

Leylin felt that once he spoke of any information regarding the high-grade meditation technique, he would definitely gain the attention of Bosain.

However, even if that was the case, after many days being together with them, Leylin had, more or less, determined their stats.

Chapter 105: The Zither Moon Town

Apart from Leylin, among this party of five, Bosain would be the strongest based on stats.

In the stats detected by the A.I. Chip, Bosain's Spiritual Force had reached 15! It was already the requirement needed to advance to the level of an official Magus.

However, for some reason, it was concealed like Leylin's. Bosain also used some secret method to conceal his Spiritual Force's energy waves and also the aberration of his eyes, without letting anyone find out.

Moreover, as a Level 3 Acolyte from a large family, Bosain's Magic Artifact emitted energy waves that were extremely strong, only second to the Fallen Star Pendant hung around Leylin's neck.

In addition, the Lilytell Family was one of the three big families of the academy. If Bosain, who was one of the younger generation that hailed from there, had no Magic Artifact on him, Leylin would be the first to not believe it.

As for Jayden, Shaya, and Roth—they were Level 3 Acolytes who had just advanced. Jayden and Shaya carried Magic Artifacts with them and were stronger than Roth by a small margin. However, Roth was neither obsequious nor supercilious along the way—obviously he had his own hidden trump card.

“Without using any trump cards, between Bosain and I, we have a fifty-fifty chance of winning. As for Shaya and Jayden, they are below us by a little, whereas Roth is ranked the last. However, he cannot be taken too lightly either!”

Leylin's eyes flashed, rapidly calculating that if any conflicts were to occur within the party, what would be the result and the control that he had of such a situation.

However, be it in the novels of his previous world, or the adventure that he undertook today, various adventurers would have internal strife after

obtaining the treasures. It was inevitable.

Leylin questioned himself—if Jayden or the rest discovered that it was actually the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm they were after, they would definitely not be willing to share the loot obtained.

Who knew if he might be the first to revolt then?

.....

The Zither Moon Town was a little town located at the foot of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

This day, on a road that was flying with dust, there were five travel-worn horse riders that appeared.

“Alright, we will enter the Zither Moon Mountain Plains from the Zither Moon Town. Before that, we can have a lodging at the inn in the town!”

Jayden reined in his horse. After getting down, he took out a badly damaged map to have a look.

At this moment, he had a completely different appearance. It was a rather secular face changing spell, which let Leylin somewhat surprised.

“This is the area of the borders. If there were any people from the Sage Gotham Hut academy it wouldn’t be odd at all, so we have to be more careful...”

“We know it already!” Bosain straightened his robes, showing impatience.

The five of them led their horses to an inn called “Ghosts With Grievances Don’t Weep”.

Opening the door, it was as though it was a whole new world. Shouting and clamouring noises, along with the stench of sweat and the odor of alcohol, wafted over.

Jayden’s brow’s furrowed, but he still walked towards the counter, tossing out a golden coin.

“Give me 5 private rooms....”

“I’m sorry, we only have 3 rooms left!” Before Jayden finished speaking, a person, who seemed to be the shop owner and who also stank of rum, interrupted him.

“Alright then! Three rooms, we’ll have it all. Also, give us your best delicacies!”

Finding lodging at an inn in this small town is already considered fortunate, so Jayden did not pursue further.

But when he was paying the money, he complained, “Isn’t this damned place the one that doesn’t have even a few visitors each year? Now, why is it that there are only 3 rooms left?”

“Burp!” The shop owner hiccuped, “Who knows? The Zither Moon Mountain Plains is filled with the damned poisonous gas and miasma. Many of these lads don’t return after setting off. Usually, there are only people here to drink some rum, but regarding gold coins, I seemed to have met with two waves of important guests today!”

“Two waves?” Leylin stepped forward, “Which is to say, there was someone else before us who came here?”

“Indeed, and they even asked for a tour guide. Gold coin payment, bah! Who wants to die in the depths of Zither Moon Mountain Plains?”

After hearing this news, Leylin and the rest looked at each other, having a somewhat ominous premonition.

“Alright! I’ll let Pinky bring you to your rooms!” The shop owner took down 3 keys that were extremely oily, as he shouted, “Pinky! Pinky! Don’t let me wait another second, if not I’ll scrape your skin off....”

Bang! Very soon, a dwarf which wore a grey pointed hat stood in front of the owner.

“Respected Sir, Pinky is here for your bidding....”

This dwarf named Pinky was only half of Leylin’s height. He also wore a flowery green costume, looking somewhat comical.

“Bring our esteemed guests to the rooms upstairs to rest, you know

which few!"

The owner casually smacked the dwarf, before handing over the keys.

"Dear guests! Please follow Pinky! Be careful of the steps!"

Pinky touched his hat and led the way at the front.

Leylin and the rest followed behind.

Shaya took off her cloak, revealing a beautiful face and alluring body, and this attracted the whistles from a few drunken blokes suddenly.

Towards this, Shaya was not irked at all, she even sent a few coquettish glances over, igniting some heat within those drunkards.

Looking at these group of animals that were lusting over her, Leylin snickered. This expression of Shaya's showed that she was already angry to a certain extent.

If these drunkards acted recklessly and stepped forward to provoke, they would definitely suffer a fate worse than death!

"Leylin, you and Roth will be in this room, Bosain and me in the other. The last one would be for Shaya, any opinions?"

As the organiser for this adventure, Jayden quickly allocated the rooms to the members.

Seeing Jayden assign the difficult Bosain to himself, Leylin and Roth heaved a sigh of relief, naturally not raising any objections.

Shaya did not say anything either.

"Also, come to my room in a while's time. Towards the previous batch of customers the shop owner mentioned, I am somewhat concerned!" Jayden's brow's furrowed.

"We are all staying at the same inn. I believe that we will definitely see the other party!" Leylin spoke blandly as if hinting at something.

According to that dwarf Pinky, the earlier batch of guests was currently not inside the inn. They seemed to have gone out to purchase some goods, even spending money to hire a tour guide.

Dinner was held at the large hall on the first level. The main dish was mud bean paste, with some wild herbs as seasoning.

However, food like this was, in the eyes of Leylin and the rest, fit only for swines. The few of them had no appetite, yet they were curious about the previous batch of guests, so Leylin and the others chose to remain inside the large hall. They sipped on their drinks as they waited.

Bang!

Leylin was drinking his malt, and Shaya had reached her tolerance limits due to the provocation of a few drunkards beside her when the inn's door opened at this moment.

Hu Hu! Large gale of cold wind blew into the inn, lowering the somewhat lively atmosphere.

After seeing these few people who just entered, Leylin's body tensed.

It was five cloaked figures. From the energy waves on their bodies, they were actually Level 2 and 3 Acolytes!

When they entered, they too obviously noticed Leylin and the others.

The line of sight connected between the two parties, and sparks appeared. However, as if nothing had happened, the five cloaked figures did not stop and continued walking towards the second floor.

"How is it? Are they acolytes from the Sage Gotham Hut?"

Shaya whispered, unable to conceal the worry on her face.

"I don't know, but they are obviously not here on a holiday!" Jayden's expression darkened.

"I say, if we did not choose this inn for lodging, would we have been able to avoid them?" Roth scratched his head.

"Avoidance?" Bosain smirked in contempt, "It is the thought of weak people. The Lilytell Family would never ever have to avoid!"

Being looked down upon by Bosain, Roth tensed. He was suffering from humiliation, yet he did not react.

“Moreover, the Zither Moon Town is so small, and there is only this one inn. When we entered the town, we were already exposed. Any sudden movements will only attract the vigilance of the other party!”

“The crucial thing is, what is their motive for coming here?” Leylin asked.

“Could it be that they also have found traces of the clues in here?”

Jayden’s expression changed, “I purchased this lead for a heavy price, buying a book that was scribbled with ancient characters.

“Which is to say, the other party could have found something too. Who knows if they might even have a professor who tagged along...” Shaya’s face looked even more uneasy, “Should we abandon the operation this time?”

“No way!” Jayden was the first who refused. For this lead, he had paid too high a price, naturally he was unwilling for them to give up.

“I don’t think any of us here would be willing to let their professors claim half of the benefits that we obtained here after a dangerous exploration” Leylin added.

“However, before they notice us, the situation might change!”

“How about we get rid of them? I took a look, there are only three Level 3 Acolytes and two Level 2 Acolytes!” Jayden revealed a brutal expression.

“We can try, but it has to be done within the Zither Moon Mountain Plains. Moreover, we should eliminate all of the traces. I don’t wish for the other side to find a reason to go to war with us!” Bosain added.

“It could also be some wandering magicians, instead of the acolytes from the Sage Gotham Hut...”

Roth said, his voice extremely soft.

A total of five acolytes, with three Level 3 Acolytes. This formation required too much time and effort to nurture them, so wandering magicians would never be able to do it.

Only academies and large scale magician guilds would be able to send

out these many acolytes at once.

“Alright then! No matter where they are from, even for the one percent chance that they are here to seek out the remnants, once they enter the Zither Moon Mountain Plains, they are our enemies!”

Jayden spoke in a murderous tone.

As acolytes, they did not wish to break the unwritten rules of the Magus World by taking action within the small town where regular humans lived. As for the other party, they could very well hold the same thoughts.

Chapter 106: Moonlight Mayfly

In the depths of the night, due to Jayden's suggestions, the five of them abandoned the idea of resting and all gathered inside one room, where they each took turns for the night watch.

Also, the other team had the same idea.

"They have left!" warned Leylin, who was monitoring the other team's acolytes with the help of A.I. Chip.

Upon hearing his voice, the other 4 acolytes, who were all previously snoozing either on the sofa or on the table, suddenly opened their eyes.

"I heard the sound of their footsteps as they left and they were all heading in the direction of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains' entrance," continued Leylin.

"Choosing the night time to start a war, eh? Let's catch up with them!"

Jayden excitedly spoke.

As people who had survived the bloodbath, Jayden and others had all experienced the letting of the enemy's blood. As far as this situation was concerned, not only did they all not have a common fear experienced by acolytes, instead, they all were looking forward to it for some unknown reason.

During this whole time, their knapsacks were unopened and left in the corner. Leylin and the rest hurriedly strapped them on and left the inn.

A total of 10 black shadows disappeared in the town, under the dim glow of the starlight.

Sou Sou Sou!

A few black figures that were hard to track using the physical eyes rapidly left the town for the entrance of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

"The other party wouldn't be so naive that they think they could outrun us. The only possibility is that they chose to fight!"

Leylin's eyes gleamed, surmising the thoughts of the other party.

However, he had faith in his party!

His side consisted of all Level 3 Acolytes and even had 4 Magic Artifacts. The A.I. Chip did not detect any energy waves from Magic Artifacts on the other party!

Moreover, in the other party, there were two Level 2 Acolytes.

To Leylin, this was where the weak link and burden lies!

Ka-Cha! A branch that was in the way was broken as Leylin dashed through, his speed was not lowering the slightest.

Through meditation, acolytes can reflect their Magic Power on their own bodies, greatly enhancing the physical qualities. Concerning Level 3 Acolyte, the increase of Spiritual Force alone can already bring their Vitality up to 2.5, equal to that of a Knight!

Moreover, Level 3 Acolyte could, through various self-experimentation, obtain stronger and larger physical prowess.

The pitch-black night, together with the jumbled branches and vines, could not hinder the speed of Leylin and his party.

“The other team has stopped!”

Leylin drew to a halt and scrutinized the whole surrounding.

Towering trees with their tops seemingly supporting the heavens, the dense foliage and undergrowth completely shielded them from the starlight, and only trickles of starlight were visible through the leaves.

But this was just enough for acolytes to see.

“This distance is already far from the town. Even if there are any energy waves, no one would discover it at all!” Jayden placed a green badge on his chest.

“You actually took out your Magic Artifact now, just to deal with a few pieces of trash?” Bosain laughed and retracted his hand into the large sleeves.

Looking at the A.I. Chip’s scan result, Leylin was somewhat speechless.

Under the detection of the A.I. Chip, Bosain too held onto his own Magic Artifact. It was even one which could immediately be activated.

This behavior of Bosain, where he contradicted himself by speaking one thing but doing something else, was something Leylin and Jayden were used to.

On the other side, Shaya and Roth also made their individual preparations.

Acolytes who survived the bloodbath were extremely clear on one point—Even a lion has to use its full force to catch a rabbit! No matter how weak the opponent seems, one must not slack off. If not, the loss of one's own life might happen!

“Let's go and get rid of them!” Jayden laughed sardonically and stepped out first.

“Hu....”

After going past a black leafy tree, Leylin saw a dark green marsh.

The surface of the swamp had many dried branches and leaves, interspersed with the corpses of other animals.

On the other side of the swamp, the 5 acolytes that they saw previously were standing there quietly.

What was different about their outfits were that on the cloak and robes, they were already wearing the badge that represented the academy they were in.

“Sage Gotham Hut?” Jayden icily said.

“Acolytes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” The leader of the other party had some guesses to the identity of Leylin's party.

“It seems like another bunch of people will be dead again!” Leylin sighed in his heart. As these both parties, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and the Sage Gotham Hut, had just ended the war, their mutual hatred was as deep as the seas.

Although the mediation by the Lighthouse of the Night had made them

sign a peace treaty, that was at most a form of restraint for the official Magi. As for acolytes, if the two sides were to see each other, then it was certain that one side would perish.

The two parties stood quietly and faced off the other. For a moment, even the air seemed to have congealed.

“Actually... We don’t have to....”

The other team’s leader remained silent for a while, then opened his mouth.

Chi Chi

The moment that leader opened his mouth, a murderous glint flashed in Jayden’s eyes and the badge on his chest radiated a ray of green light.

Countless murky green vines with reversed barbs rose from the ground, encircling the five opponents!

In terms of battle experience, Jayden obviously had more than the other party. Moreover, Jayden carried the blood debt of killing Torash. Amongst their party of five, he was the most unwilling to let the enemy go scot-free.

If not, once other party disclosed the news, even if Jayden concealed himself, he would be in the pursuit of the official Magus from the other side!

“Despicable!” “Escaaaaaape!” “Aargh!”

The five acolytes obviously did not think that Jayden would be this decisive and ruthless, not even mouthing a greeting before he took action.

Within a fraction of a second, a green whirlwind swirled around two acolytes, increasing their speed and bringing them off the attack area of the vines.

As for another acolyte, there was an orange-red flame that burned in his surroundings. It took on the form of a whip, continuously attacking the vines, which burned in retreat.

As for the last two Level 2 Acolytes, they seemed rather miserable. Countless vines wrapped them into a ball. Along with the tightening of

the vines, fresh blood seeped through from within the ball.

“Kill them all!”

The moment Jayden struck, Bosain, Leylin, and the others rushed forward too.

“Right now, I can confirm that this bunch of acolytes is nurtured in the greenhouse, with no experience of seeing a war field that reeks of blood. They are as weak as sheep in the face of a strong adversary!”

Leylin looked at the few acolytes with a pitiable look.

He guessed that these few acolytes did not even participate in the previous bloodbath. Their mentality was the same as when they were inside their academy.

However, he loved opponents like this the most. Because one can reap the largest benefits without spending much effort.

As Leylin dashed forward, he chanted an incantation.

Sssii! A pitch-black hand rose from the shadows, grabbing onto the ankle of a Level 3 Acolyte.

* Umbra’s Hand!”

Sssii! The hand that was extremely corrosive dissolved part of the opponent’s leg and the flesh and blood continuously fell down.

“Aaargh... someone save me!”

The enemy acolyte fell onto the ground, his wails pierced past the quiet forest, directly to the heavens.

“Kiddo! Your mother will save you!” Shaya mocked him. She waved her arm and a few silver light flew from her hand, directly piercing the head of the fallen acolyte.

* Bang! * The acolyte’s head sliced open like a watermelon as the brain and various juices sprayed on the floor.

3 people died directly from the first wave of attack from Leylin’s party.

“Damn it! Monty!”

The two Level 3 Acolyte gritted their teeth and retreated. One of them withdrew a silver whistle from his robes and blew on it.

* Xiu Xiu Jiu Jiu! *

The piercing noise from the whistle sounded. From afar a growl from a beast was heard. It was oppressive, bloodthirsty and seemed to come from midair.

[Sound frequency recorded. Comparing to database, identified as a Moonlight Mayfly!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"Moonlight Mayfly?" Leylin was surprised, "No wonder the other party chose this marsh as the battlefield!"

He immediately shouted, "Be careful! They have a contracted beast. It's the Moonlight Mayfly, hurry and leave the marsh!"

* Groar! *

The growl sounded and a massive black figure pressed down from the top of the trees, hovering in the midair above the marsh.

It was a giant creature with purple and black light emitting from the body. Also, it was the size of a horse, and two wings like that of a bat's grew from its sides. At the end of the wings, there were barbed talons. The mouth was extremely pointed and was filled with razor-sharp, white teeth. A pair of bright, yellow eyes seemed to burn like flames in the middle of the night.

"A.I. Chip, scan the creature!" Leylin ordered silently.

[Beep! Moonlight Mayfly. Strength: 5.2, Agility: 8.9, Vitality: 7.5, Spiritual Force: 3.8. Innate skills: 1.—Float. The Moonlight Mayfly large wings can allow them to maintain flight for a medium short distance. 2.—Fury of the Marsh. As the pet of the marshes, the Moonlight Mayfly can call upon the fury of the marsh. Uses the marsh attack on enemies. Might: 7 to 9 degrees!]

* Shiikkk! * As Leylin warned them, an unpleasant roar came from the

Moonlight Mayfly floating in midair.

With the roar, the surface of the marsh which was originally serene suddenly surged with ripples.

The ripples grew larger, finally turning into a 12-metre tall wave, directing falling right upon Leylin and the rest.

Many impurities were contained within the murky waters, and it brought along branches and corpses of wild beasts. The wave actually took over a form that seemed to cover the skies.

“Well done, my precious!”

The acolyte, who blew loudly on the whistle, shouted, “Kill them for me!”

“Damn it! Even a little worm wants to kill us!”

Leylin and the others rushed out of the marsh area. As the might of the Fury of the Marsh could only be displayed inside the marsh, the attack stopped pursuing. However, Bosain remained behind.

At this moment, facing this huge wave, his expression was as if he just suffered a humiliation.

* Bang! * A large wave surged and attacked Bosain. However, on the surface of his body, a large silver metal shield automatically appeared in front of him.

The shield was a dozen centimetres thick. On the surface of the shield, there were mysterious and complicated runes and it looked to be extremely sturdy.

The Fury of the Marsh attack crashed on the shield, creating a loud bang.

Chapter 107: Total Annihilation

Bang!

Under the crashing of the wave, the silver shield seemed to be a reef in the middle of the ocean, not moving the slightest.

After the Fury of the Marsh was over, Bosain was still unscathed behind the shield.

Seeing this, Leylin's pupil shrank.

"A defense type Magic Artifact!"

As the younger generation hailing from one of the big three families in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Bosain actually had a defense type Magic Artifact.

Leylin clearly understood the difficulty of dealing with it, as he too had a defense type Magic Artifact, the Fallen Star Pendant. Once the Fallen Star Pendant was activated, Leylin was invincible amongst acolytes.

As for the two opposing Level 3 Acolytes, they were obviously scared stiff by Bosain's actions. There was actually a moment when they stood still.

Especially the acolyte who signed a contract with the Moonlight Mayfly, he gripped the whistle tightly, disbelief written all over his pallid face.

After the Fury of the Marsh attack, the giant Moonlight Mayfly seemed to have been spent. It continued to hover in midair, yet did not attack again.

[The Moonlight Mayfly's attack can only be used once per day. Following which it has a cooldown period of 20 hours. Also, during this period, it would be in a weakened state!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"A good chance!" Leylin's eyes flashed, and two potions, red and purple coloured, flew from his hands.

Bang! A red flame with purple smoke exploded on the body of the

Moonlight Mayfly.

The huge explosion engulfed the Moonlight Mayfly. From the purple-red halo of the spell, the shrieks of the Moonlight Mayfly could be heard.

After the potion's effect had worn off, the Moonlight Mayfly in midair was in a miserable state. Both its claws were broken, with many holes on its wings. It seemed not to be able to float in the air any longer, covering the distance between itself and the ground rapidly, as if wanting to rest.

"You damned bastard! You actually dare...."

Looking at the Moonlight Mayfly approaching the ground, Bosain roared. The silver shield in front of him then emitted a white light.

The thick shield melted in the light, and silver liquid swirled around Bosain's hands, turning into a silver greatsword.

"Hah!"

Bosain raised the greatsword with both hands and jumped up before slashing down!

Sou!

A silver flash of light chopped at the neck of the Moonlight Mayfly who was struggling, and a stream of blood appeared in its place.

The head of the Moonlight Mayfly was chopped off, spraying a large amount of black and purple ichor.

One slash to sever the head! The massive Moonlight Mayfly was actually decapitated with just one slash of Bosain's sword.

"There is even a secondary effect! What a powerful Magic Artifact! Of course, Bosain's strength is an important factor!"

Leylin gasped in amazement.

"Ah, no!" The moment the Moonlight Mayfly was decapitated, the acolyte let out a shrill cry.

Moreover, the moment the eyes of the severed Moonlight Mayfly's head dimmed, the acolyte's face turned white, and wrinkles started to appear all

over his face.

“It seems like it was a life-bound contract he signed. No wonder, despite his average strength, he obtained the loyalty of the Moonlight Mayfly....”

Leylin sighed, “A pity that life-bound contracts are linked with the creature. Once the contracted creature dies, the host will not be able to escape the same fate!”

After the fire in the yellow eyes of the Moonlight Mayfly disappeared, the acolyte panted. At this moment, he was already a white-haired old man and then he fell to the ground, losing all signs of life.

“Ahhh!”

The final remaining acolyte shouted, immediately turned around and ran.

At the same time, a feather was thrown into the air by him. A black flash of light turned the feather into a nighthawk which flew in the air.

“A magic summon, hurry and stop it!” Jayden pointed and several vines immediately gave chase.

“Arrow spell!” Red-haired Shaya shouted, and from her hands, a few bright white-silver arrows shot towards the night hawk.

Jiu, Jiu! The night hawk whistled and flapped its wings, moving in a beautiful arc as it avoided the attack from the green vines.

After which, the nighthawk with its razor sharp wings smacked the few silver arrows away.

“It’s also a magic creature!”

Bosain’s voice weakened.

“We cannot let it relay the news, if not we’ll be in a dangerous situation!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed, his wrist guard changing shape, turning into a black longbow.

“A.I. Chip! Calculate wind speed, humidity, and trajectory....”

Chi! The black arrow flashed across the sky like a lightning bolt, directly

piercing the right wing of the night hawk.

With a wail, the nighthawk fell down.

“Nice one!” Bosain shouted in glee. His speed increased greatly, brandishing the silver greatsword.

Pu! The silver greatsword produced a white silk net, capturing the night hawk within.

“Go to hell!” The white silk net continued to tighten, finally turning into a ball of blood and feathers.

“We have finally gotten rid of it!” Jayden and Shaya heaved a sigh of relief.

“There is also this one!”

Chi La La! The thicket parted and Roth’s figure appeared in front of the party. Only now his appearance had taken a drastic change.

His right arm was blasted off, revealing many white tentacles. Half of his face was also strewn with green scales.

As for the tentacles on his right arm, it was holding onto the head of the last acolyte who escaped. The head wore a frightened expression!

“A mutation experiment? And it is so thorough!”

Leylin and the other three were shocked.

Although Level 3 Acolytes can enhance their own body and transform it to a certain degree, an acolyte’s Spiritual Force was still far beneath that of an official Magus. Many high-grade ingredients and knowledge weren’t enough, so more often than not, forcefully enhancing the body would result in an irreversible damage.

However, Roth’s current state showed that he was extremely sane.

Sou Sou! White tentacles continuously retracted back into his body. Very soon, Roth took on a half-naked appearance, returning back to his regular form.

Roth swung his right arm, tossing the acolyte’s head onto the floor and

smiled widely.

“Now, the inconveniences have all been disposed of!”

“Indeed!” Jayden looked at Roth, “We have already been friends for two years. Although I knew your mutation talent is rather high, I never expected that you have already contained the physical transformation aspect!”

Roth looked at the other four and shrugged his shoulders. “Acolytes must also have their trump cards, shouldn’t they?”

“Alright! Even though we annihilated the opponents, to prevent any unforeseen circumstances, we had better hasten the exploration and leave this place...”

Bosain suggested as he placed the Magic Artifact back in his robes.

“Indeed! The other party could have revealed their location to someone else. We have to hurry and look for the remnants in the Zither Moon Mountain Plains!”

Leylin also agreed.

“Alright, let us set off immediately!”

Jayden nodded his head and was about to lead the party away.

“Wait a minute, I even found this on his body!” Roth smiled and handed over a pale yellow scroll over to Jayden.

“This is...” Jayden opened it and his expression looked extremely unpleasant as if it belonged on a corpse.

“A.I. Chip, record!” The moment Jayden opened the map, Leylin immediately ordered the A.I. Chip to record it.

From the geographical drawing, the map depicted the Zither Moon Mountain Plains. Moreover, among the signs of the dark forest, there was a thin red line which extended from the Zither Moon Town entrance to the depths of the mountain. It stopped at another marking which showed a cliff. Moreover, at the bottom of the cliff, there was the name ‘Dylan Gardens’

“Did the purpose of the other party coincide with our exploration?” Leylin asked suddenly.

“Indeed!” Jayden nodded vigorously, suddenly turning impatient. “Damn it, I don’t know how many leads this remnant owner created. Let’s hurry, I don’t wish to see a remnant that has already been scoured clean!”

Leylin inwardly saw the light. What the Great Magus Serholm left behind was an inheritance. He definitely wished for someone to discover and continue his legacy. Hence, he left behind many leads.

At this moment, Leylin could already confirm that the clues Jayden had belonged to the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm!

As there was a possibility that someone else might be there before them, the five of them proceeded with their journey, their hearts heavy and their complexions reflected their uneasiness.

However, they moved quickly, and in a few hours’ time, they had already entered the depths of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

At this moment, the mountain was extremely different from when they had first stepped into it.

The change in the vegetation here was to an extreme. If the Zither Moon Mountain Plains border had normal plants growing, right now, what they saw in front of them were some relatively bizarre species of plants.

The most common plants were a species of big shrubs that were white in colour and their leaves had a strange spiral form.

Every time a gust of wind blew, the sea of shrubs would move with the wind, producing a sound similar to playing the piano keys.

Ding Ding Dong Dong! The piano-like sounds was extremely chaotic. Leylin became aroused, feeling a need to recklessly charge forth!

“Careful! This is the Piano Key Bush. The noise it makes can attract regular humans. Even an acolyte would be somewhat affected!”

Leylin warned, “Earlier, the missing people from the Zither Moon Town could very well have been attracted to these sounds, entering an illusion

and dying in heat....”

After which, Leylin withdrew a few potions from his bag and distributed it to Jayden and the rest.

“This is a tranquilizing potion that I have brewed, it can resist such effects!”

Jayden, Roth, and Shaya looked at the test-tube in their hands and drank its contents after tasting a little of it.

As for Bosain, he shook his head to refuse, directly returning the potion to Leylin.

“I don’t need it!”

Leylin shrugged his shoulders and led the way at the front.

On the later parts of the exploration, there were traps with poisonous gases and ambushes. This was the reason a Potioneering acolyte was needed – to counteract them.

This was also the reason why Jayden asked Leylin to come.

Chapter 108: The Entrance

After which, Leylin and the rest met several waves of miasma and hordes of poisonous insects.

Under the aid of the potions Leylin provided, the party got through these danger zones with ease.

After Leylin displayed a few methods of using the potions to dispel the poisonous insects and miasma, Jayden and the rest were convinced of Leylin's talent.

Even Bosain from the Lilytell Family would occasionally cast surprised glances at Leylin.

Obviously, he had heard of Leylin's talent in Potioneering before, but Leylin's talent had exceeded his expectations.

The party trekked over land and water, finally arriving at the overhanging cliff depicted on the map two days later.

"So beautiful!"

Shaya gasped. Even Leylin and the others showed signs of indulgence.

On the edge of the cliff, there were bright yellow flowers growing on the levelled ground. In the heart of the flower, it was bright red. When it bloomed it had the size of two regular humans' fists put together.

The whole mountaintop was filled with this strange flower, and a heavy aroma permeated the area.

"Leylin, what is it?" Jayden asked.

The Zither Moon Mountain Plains was riddled with dangers, and various strange plants had appeared. More often than not, the more beautiful a plant was the more dangerous it was. Especially when it was close to their destination!

As the Potioneering acolyte, Leylin already dealt with 3 similar flowers traps.

"No problem!" Leylin picked up a stalk of the flower.

“A.I. Chip, compare to database!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, scanning outer appearance and scent. Comparison in progress...]

[Result is found in the database. Determined as a Beta Daisy!] The A.I. Chip’s voice loyally intoned.

“Beta Daisy?” Leylin’s brow’s furrowed. “This is a common plant in the South Coast. Normally they are grown on plains. It represents nostalgia and respect...”

“This flower does indeed seem like the Beta Daisy. There should be someone who planted this here on purpose!” Bosain also gave a definite reply.

“Is it the magician who left behind the inheritance?” Roth who stood behind spoke, his voice gruff.

“It’s possible, but I can’t confirm it!”

Jayden opened the damaged map, “From the map, the remnants should be located at the bottom of this cliff!”

Leylin nodded his head, back when he scanned the map, the name ‘Dylan Gardens’ appeared beneath the cliff. Moreover, there was mentioned a huge area of Beta Daisy located on the cliff above it, so there was an 80-90 percent chance that it was correct.

“What are we waiting for?” The excitement was seen on Shaya’s face.

To acolytes, if there were able to find remnants of an official Magus and obtain the inheritance, it was often the start of another legend.

The five of them began to pant raggedly, even Bosain was not excluded.

The cliff was extremely high, and there were granite rocks on the razor sharp steep walls. For a regular human, climbing to the bottom was an impossible task.

However, for these five Level 3 Acolytes, this itsy-bitsy challenge could not stop them at all.

Roth immediately transformed into the tentacle handed creature and climbed. As for Leylin and the others, they added a Floating Feather spell. This spell allowed them to lighten their weight and they floated right to the bottom.

Bang!

The Floating Feather spell was removed and Leylin's feet touched the ground.

"This is..." Leylin was rather taken aback as he sized up the surroundings. It was littered with stones in the form of double edged blades.

The countless stone swords were placed together, covering at least half of the bottom area of the cliff.

On the sharp blades, there were countless corpses. Leylin even discovered some corpses which looked like humans.

"It seems that these were living creatures which fell from the cliff!" Leylin sighed and suddenly realised that something was amiss, "How could there be regular humans here. Could it be some acolytes who had obtained leads previously?"

"Be careful, the floor is littered with blades!" Upon seeing Jayden and the others landing, Leylin hurriedly warned.

"Damn it!" Jayden's face darkened. His arm had grazed over one of the sharp blades when landing, revealing an abrasion that was at least 12cm long.

"These pointed edges have been made razor-sharp to last for eternity. In addition, there also some magic spells imbued in them! If this were not so, it would not have been possible to breakthrough my defense and cause a scratch on my skin!"

"Indeed!" Leylin touched the grey-white blade and felt the faint energy waves pulsing from it.

"Only an official Magus could perform the spell on such a scale, adding

the effect on all these rocks in this area!”

“So then, where is the remnant?”

Sou Sou! Countless grey-white tentacles extended to the bottom of the cliff, bringing Roth with it.

“I have used my spell to detect earlier, there are only rocks and mud below here, no traces of remnants whatsoever....” Bosain held onto a green eyeball and spoke rather dejectedly.

“Let us search the area and see if there are any clues. 6 hours later, we’ll gather at the top of the cliff again!” Impatience surfaced on Jayden’s face as he spoke.

This exploration was suggested by him, so the worst disappointment is ending with no results.

Moreover, with some clues but not being able to discover the entrance still, this impatience, together with the fear of being hunted down by an official Magus had tortured this little boy. From what Leylin saw, Jayden was on the verge of a mental breakdown.

“Freedom to seek?” After hearing Jayden’s suggestion, the other 4 quietened down and nodded their heads in agreement.

To them, after arriving at the destination, Jayden was of little use to them. Moreover, being able to find the remnant and obtain the loot before the other party members were definitely much better than discovering it together. More benefits could be obtained that way.

The five of them had confidence in their own methods. Hence, no one suggested forming a team of sorts.

The few of them chose to walk downwards and left the area where they landed on.

“A.I. Chip, scan the geographical outlay and project a map from it!” Leylin commanded the A.I. Chip after walking for a moment before stopping.

[Mission establishing, scanning the geography of the region...]

The A.I. Chip loyally carried out Leylin's orders. Very soon, a pale blue 3-D image was projected in front of Leylin's eyes.

On this map which could only be seen by him, it clearly depicted the terrain of the location nearby. It was so detailed that even a blade of grass was not left out.

According to the A.I. Chip's detection, under the cliff, there were layers of granite. Here were no signs of magician activities.

Moreover, in the surroundings, there weren't any situation of experiment labs that was detected.

"There isn't any?" Leylin's brow's furrowed.

"Perhaps, the other party had laid out such a strong concealment that even the A.I. Chip was unable to detect!"

Leylin pondered as he looked at the surroundings again with his physical eye.

6 hours later, the sky gradually turned dark. There were a few tents pitched on the top of the cliff. In front of the tent, there was a bonfire, where a wild vegetable soup aroma rose from the boiling pot.

It was rather unfortunate, however, that the five surrounding the bonfire did not have any appetite.

"Everyone has returned, speak of your findings!" Jayden looked at the circle and spoke first.

"There isn't any! Apart from those darned inverted rock blades, there isn't anything else...." Roth then spoke, "I say, could it be that you are leading us on the wrong path?"

"What did you say?" Jayden stood up abruptly, the badge pinned on his chest emitting a green glow.

"Alright! Do we want to cause internal strife even before finding the treasure?" Bosain emitted a huge energy wave, directly between Jayden and Roth.

"I believe Jayden, if not he could have come here on his own!" Leylin

added.

Why he said that was because he also held a copy of the Sage Gotham Hut party's map. He knew that Jayden had been leading them right to the destination.

After hearing Leylin and Bosain mediating, Jayden and Roth glared at each other and sat back down.

"I have even searched the bottom level and it was all solid ground. There isn't any underground construction or anything of that sort!" Shaya smiled wryly.

"An official Magus' remnant could not be found that easily in the first place. If not it would have long since been looted!"

Leylin added and immediately asked Jayden, "Do you have any other clues?"

After hearing Leylin's words, the other 3 diverted their glances at Jayden.

Jayden kept his silence for a while before speaking, "The clue that I obtained was the map to come here. On the map, there were several ancient verses, it seemed to be a poem of sorts..."

"Let me see it!" Leylin and Bosain spoke together in unison.

"I'll show it to all of you then!" Jayden smiled and opened the map in his hands.

Leylin scrutinised the map on Jayden. There was no difference with the A.I. Chip's copy at all, even the route was the same, leading to this cliff.

However, Jayden's copy of the map was much older. On the upper right corner, there were several blurry characters. The words were writhing like a snake.

"This is Curagerian language, I have seen it before on a manual. It seemed to speak of 'carry...and people with respect, will be able to... garden....'" Bosain eyes flashed as he tried his best to translate it.

"Only those who carry courage and respect will be able to see the Dylan Gardens!" Leylin translated the Curagerian language immediately, "There

is only this one line on the map!”

Bosain was clearly startled, “Such an obscure knowledge...you actually...”

“It’s because I like to hang around in the library!” Leylin smiled.

“The remnant’s name seemed to be Dylan Gardens. However, for courage and respect, what does it mean?”

Shaya scratched her head in puzzlement.

“I always thought courage referred to the courage to trespass through the Zither Moon Mountain Plains. It doesn’t seem to be the case now!” Jayden smiled wryly.

“The Zither Moon Mountain Plains is somewhat dangerous to regular humans. However to a Level 2 Acolyte, it doesn’t pose much danger at all...” Bosain looked at Leylin impassively, before speaking.

Chapter 109: A Way To Enter

The group discussed till late into the night, but no conclusions were arrived at.

After which, they assigned the sentry for the night watch, and the individuals returned to the tent to rest and meditate.

Leylin lay on a simple bed laid with the fur of a white wolf, anxiety stirring in his heart.

To him, this inheritance that no one knew about was now revealed to the rest. Furthermore, using the A.I. Chip's scanning abilities did not yield him any results. This made him feel rather irritated.

Even the meditation that he did daily had to be postponed.

"Maybe I should not put all my hopes in here. The South Coast is extremely vast. Every dozens of years there would be an acolyte who stumbled upon an inheritance and obtain resources to advance into an official Magus. There are many chances..."

Leylin comforted himself, and then laughed in spite of himself.

Originally, he had considered the Great Magus Serholm's inheritance as his own belonging, which had led him to be obsessed with it. Even a magician's most basic intellect was affected by it.

And Jayden and the others were also in the same situation.

"How irritable, I ignored the dangers!" Leylin's expression suddenly turned tranquil.

"The acolytes of the Sage Gotham Hut have all been killed by us. This will surely cause the other side to keep an eye on us and cause them to send some powerful acolytes or even official Magi to investigate..."

"Based on the location of the Sage Gotham Hut, I still have around 10 days' time till the information reaches them..."

"8 days! If within 8 days I still haven't discovered any clues here, I must leave." Leylin's eyes showed his resolve.

Compared with the Great Magus Serholm's inheritance, Leylin valued his own life even more.

.....

After having decided thus, Leylin felt as if a load had been taken off of him, and even his Spiritual Force felt like it was cleansed and thus he entered into the state of mediation.

Early morning, a skylark's sharp cry echoed above their camp.

Leylin greeted Shaya, "Morning!"

"Morning!" said Shaya, two dark circles around her eyes. It appeared as if she hadn't slept a wink last night. A few blood vessels were distinctly visible within her eyes. The gaze that she returned Leylin was inconceivable.

"I wonder...how is it that you can be so...relaxed?" After enduring for some time, Shaya at last enquired.

"This is an official Magus' inheritance that we are talking about—there is a chance to even get some information and resources which would help us advance..."

"But we still haven't found it, isn't that right?"

Leylin, facing the rising sun, stretched his muscles satisfactorily.

"As long as something is not yours, you must not obsess over it too much. Otherwise, your heart will only suffer."

"You are very odd indeed!" Shaya rubbed her hand across her forehead, as she continued, "However, Magi and acolytes are all queer people, so you can be considered as normal!"

"That may be so!" Leylin nodded, as he thought that if these people came to know that the remnants were left behind by the Great Magus Serholm, then the situation could worsen.

But, he certainly would not tell them about this bit of information.

The 5 people walked away from the tents and gathered to eat their

breakfast—which was a roasted fowl. After that, they all gathered together to discuss on how to proceed.

“Alright! Today will again be another day of solo explorations! Try your best to find the remnants!” said Jayden. After seeing that the discussion went on for ages with no result, he had no other option but to say this.

This was also the most appropriate action for the current situation.

Although it is possible that any acolyte could find the entrance first, as long as it is opened, Jayden and the rest would also be able to find that open entrance from its energy waves. At the very most, they would just give the people who discovered the entrance a larger portion of the reward.

“What are you doing?”

After everyone had scattered in different directions, Jayden, upon seeing that Leylin still stood hesitating at the top of the cliff and was bowing to appreciate the Beta Daisy, he couldn’t help but ask.

“It is as you see. I am appreciating the flowers,” said Leylin, with a hint of a smile on his mouth.

“At such a moment?” Jayden’s eyes turned red; he made as if to go and reprimand Leylin.

“Be calm! You must not get irritated!” Leylin made a gesture to make him halt.

“Yesterday we all looked for clues at the cliff’s bottom, but we haven’t discovered this secret hidden among the ocean of flowers!”

“Secret? You mean, you found it?” Jayden appeared ecstatic.

“What? Leylin found it?” Sou! Sou! Sou! 3 shadows appeared directly next to Jayden and Leylin.

It was the other 3 acolytes who had not strayed too far.

“En!” In front of his party’s eyes, Leylin slowly nodded his head.

“One of you who can use any floating spell, fly up to midair and have a

look!” Leylin spoke.

“I’ll do it!” Bosain immediately withdrew a silver metal ball. On the metal ball, there were the energy waves of a Magic Artifact.

After that, Bosain twirled the metal ball, which then melted to become a liquid. This liquid stuck to his back and formed two huge, pretty and dazzling silver wings.

“It is a magic artifact that can change form as needed!” praised Leylin.

This artifact probably could reach the standard of a medium-grade Magic Artifact, guessed Leylin. The synthesizer had lowered the might of it for an acolyte to wield its power.

Only large-scale families with a long history would be able to enjoy such extravagant methods.

Chi La! A huge translucent silver wing flapped, bringing the dust off the ground. With this strength, Bosain immediately flew into midair.

“How is it? Do you see anything?” Jayden shouted below.

“Flowers...The arrangement of the Beta Daisy....”

A gust of wind flew past and Bosain flew down onto the ground, retracting his wings back in his body.

“This patch of Beta Daisy was planted on purpose. They have formed a character!”

Bosain explained to the rest.

“What character?” Shaya and Roth asked.

“It is a Curagerian letter, and the meaning means ‘jump’!” Leylin said.

“Jump? Could it be that we have to jump directly off the cliff?” Jayden guessed. Acolytes were not silly people, their judgment was clouded by the benefits in front of them previously.

“Haven’t we already jumped once yesterday?”

Roth scratched his head, “Nothing was discovered, only those damned rocks below the cliff!”

“No! You climbed down. As for us, we used the Floating Feather spell to get down!” Bosain interrupted.

“I understand now, the remnant is located in a secret plane. As for the way to enter, it is to jump directly down from the cliff without using any spells!”

“Jump down directly? Are you crazy?” Shaya twisted her beautiful red hair, “Such a tall cliff with so many rock blades at the bottom. If we don’t use any magic spells for defence, with our physical bodies, even Roth would fall to his death!”

“So, we need some experiment specimen!”

Jayden said, “Go find some animals, better yet some humans!”

“That’s possible! But don’t harbour too much hope!” Roth pulled out a bunch of tentacles from his bag and hurriedly left.

“We should also search in the surroundings, if we still can’t find any, then let’s return to the town!” Jayden revealed a smile for the first time...

“Ahhhhh....”

Frightened screams could be heard from the cliff. Moreover, due to the high pressure from the wind, the voices were altered.

Bang!

A black dot fell from the top of the cliff, growing larger, finally, a human figure appeared.

It was a person from the town who wore hunter gear. His face contorted and let out a hell-raising scream, free-falling from the top of the cliff.

Sou!

The hunter smashed directly onto a rock blade and the huge force of impact directly severed his body in two.

The corpse which was in two fell on the ground creating a huge pit. The bones and flesh were mixed together, the original appearance could not be recognised at all.

Beside these two pits, there was a smaller pit.

It had the same gory scene, only that the skull belonged to an animal similar to a deer.

“How is it?”

At the bottom of the cliff, Roth crossed his arms and inspected. Shaya too stood beside him. Moreover, in front of him, there was a semicircle object which glowed in green. From that object, Jayden’s voice could be heard.

“Nothing new! It’s just more meat paste, the result is similar to the deer from before!” Roth sneered, “It seems that our plan has failed...”

On top of the cliff, Leylin and the other two crowded around. Upon listening to the voice from the other half of the green semicircle object, their faces disappointed.

“From the start, an animal, till the last, a human. It seems like there are some other conditions that need to be met!”

Leylin was the first to recover from his low spirits.

“Let us think carefully, we are running out of specimens to test!” Bosain revealed a sardonic smile, pointing at the empty ground nearby.

On the empty ground, there were a few Zither Moon Town civilians who looked aghast at Leylin and the others. If not for the fact that their mouths were stuffed, they would most likely be cursing or begging for mercy right now.

Ever since Jayden suggested finding substitutes, the five of them had immediately split up and done their job.

Bosain was the most ruthless, it seemed like he went back to the town to kidnap a few citizens back here.

For peak magician families from where he came from, the secular regular humans were like wild grass. No matter how many were cut off, more would sprout in the future. Being able to die for his cause was their glory!

Although Leylin did not agree with this, but going against Bosain for a few mere strangers was not worth it.

Moreover, using human specimens had a smaller margin for error, much more than a deer. It was also in accordance with Leylin's interests!

At the same time, he was extremely shocked at Bosain's speed.

"Jumping down would represent courage! According to the map, there must also be 'respect!'" Leylin spoke of his own conjecture.

"Then what is 'respect'?" Bosain asked.

"In ancient times, when people visit their elders, they would bring a Beta Daisy to show their respect. This custom has lasted till today's times, and many places in the South Coast has retained such traditions!"

Leylin smiled and said.

Chapter 110: Black Horrall Snake

“Indeed! The Poolfield Kingdom does have such traditions!” Bosain’s eyes gleamed.

“Let’s try again!”

He went to one of the captives directly. It was a blue-haired kid which had not matured yet. “Be honoured kiddo! Being able to make contributions in front of mighty magicians!”

Bosain smirked, and immediately cut the ropes that were tying the boy.

“Put this on well, better yet put it at the place 30 centimetres below your collar!” Leylin immediately plucked a Beta Daisy flower and inserted it into the boy’s collars.

“All preparatory work is work! Roth and Shaya, be careful!” Jayden roared into the receiver.

“Three, two, and one! Release!”

Bosain grabbed onto the boy’s hair with an arm and walked towards the edge of the cliff. Looking at the boy who was flailing, he smirked and let go of his hand.

“Ahhhhhhhhh!”

The little boy spit off the thing stuffed in his mouth and let off a horrified scream!

After which, both his hands waved wildly as if a drowned person trying to hold onto the last rice straw.

“I hope it’s a success this time!” On the cliff, Leylin muttered as he stood with the other two watched the screaming boy turn into a dot.

Suddenly, Leylin and the rest discovered an energy wave.

“This feeling! It won’t be mistaken! It’s the energy waves formed when a secret plane opens, the same as the bloodbath from before!” Leylin’s lips curled up.

“Sha Sha...” Noises came from the receiver.

“He disappeared! I see the person who was falling in midair engulfed by a light, completely disappearing!” Shaya’s voice could be heard with a trace of excitement in it.

“Let us go immediately!” Roth’s voice, too, sounded from the receiver.

Moments later, the five gathered at the cliff as they gasped in amazement at the methods of ancient Magi.

“Courage and respect! Who would have thought of that?”

Shaya spoke in a wondrous tone, “With no defense spells and jumping off the cliff, where many rock blades have been imbued with eternal sharpness. Even an official Magus would not dare try it...”

“Moreover, one has to carry a Beta Daisy. If not, the secret plane wouldn’t be opened...”

Jayden smiled, “Leylin, nice one!”

At this moment, even Bosain revealed an approving smile. Shaya even clapped for him at the side.

“Oh! All of this is due to everyone’s efforts!” Leylin lowered his head slightly, revealing a humble yet proud smile.

“The secret plane has already been discovered, what are we waiting for?” Roth immediately plucked a Beta Daisy and placed it on his body.

“There are them too!” Bosain pointed at the frightened captives.

“I’ll end it!” Jayden stretched both his hands and the vines continue to extend.

“Wait!” Leylin spoke suddenly, restricting Jayden’s movement.

“What is it, could it be that you want to beg for them?” Bosain looked at Leylin in amusement.

“No! Only that, the secret plane might contain many other mechanisms like this, who knows if there are other uses for them!”

Leylin gave a viable reason.

“Moreover!” Leylin reached for a captive, “Granite Bind!”

Grey granite immediately rose from the ground, turning into fetters and handcuffs, tying the captives together once more.

“Regular humans will not be able to escape from a magic spell. This way, we wouldn’t be afraid of them running away!”

“Very well! If we use too much time inside the secret plane, they will die of starvation. Leylin, you are indeed a magician!”

Bosain smiled and directly held a Beta Daisy in his hands, “Let’s go! Are we still going to wait?”

“Jump!” The five acolytes each carried a Beta Daisy and jumped from the cliff.

Bang!

During the high-speed drop, Leylin’s skin was almost sunken from the high pressure.

His eyes slightly reddened, and he felt as if the blood in his whole body was about to shoot out.

“Is this the feeling of jumping off a building?” Leylin harboured some nonsensical thoughts.

When the five of them fell halfway, a circle of light shone on the precipice.

The light turned into a circle and the air writhed, revealing the scene of another dimension.

“The entrance of the secret plane!” Bosain shouted.

Following which, the eyes of the members gleamed, and a strong weightlessness feeling overcame them.

After the earth spinning feeling, Leylin and the rest came to a dark cave.

“Such a large place, it should be a subterranean area! Only that we don’t know where it is, since the underground of the bottom of the cliff was already searched with spells many times. It’s impossible to be there!”

Leylin got up slowly.

“Where’s the boy?” Shaya tidied the hair that covered her forehead and suddenly cried, “The boy from earlier has disappeared!”

“It’s not that!” Roth lowered his head and pointed to the ground. There was a puddle a blood and the broken pieces of clothes of the boy.

“As expected, danger lurks in the secret plane along with the remnants!”

After seeing this scene, Leylin’s eyes flashed.

Earlier when he disclosed the information to enter, he could have kept it to himself and wait until the others have returned to the academy before returning on his own.

However, he still chose to tell the others.

This was definitely not because he had had a change of character.

But fear! Fear of the danger inside the secret plane!

The Great Magus Serholm was a legendary Magus and had at least rose to Rank 4.

The inheritance that such a person would leave behind, Leylin felt that there would definitely be many mechanisms to test the aptitude of the seekers.

No matter what, Leylin was still only a Level 3 Acolyte, not even an official Magus! This place, for him, was too dangerous!

As for Bosain who was amongst Jayden’s party, he was an existence not weaker to Leylin. The other three too had their various ways of surviving.

Leylin was extremely clear on his strength. Just he alone would be unable to break through every mechanism in the secret plane to obtain the inheritance. As for deceiving Jayden and the rest and completely reform a team with only Level 3 Acolytes, that was an impossible task to do.

Furthermore, even if it was a team he organised, at the very end when they discovered the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm, Leylin was

certain that an internal strife would occur!

For acolytes, the Great Magus Serholm was a myth amongst legends! His inheritance has a deadly allure to any acolyte!

Anyway, falling out was inevitable, so it did not matter who he had to fall out with.

Leylin asked himself if he were to compare the trump cards, he was the one with the most. The final one laughing would definitely be him!

“It seems like the boy had been attacked by some dangerous creature!”

Jayden took out his Magic Artifact, a green badge, and held it in his hand.

The surroundings were extremely dim and the visibility was poor. Leylin and the others could not see very far.

The five of them huddled together to face any outside attack.

“Look at this!” Roth squatted down and pointed at a semicircle track.

Leylin looked at the direction he pointed at, and the semicircle track was extremely deep, extending to the depths far away. Moreover, these tracks appeared the most around the boy’s remains.

“It’s a snake’s trail!” Leylin felt a scale the size of a palm from the tracks and blurted out.

“A snake’s track? Which means, there is a dangerous snake creature concealed in the area!”

Roth’s right-hand muscle bulged and his sleeves exploded.

Hua La La! White tentacles continuously extended from it, creating a defense by shielding his surroundings.

Sssii! Sssii! !

The spitting of a snake’s tongue continuously sounded.

“It seems like the Great Magus Serholm had an affection for snake type creatures!” Leylin thought of the Huge Mankestre Snake back in the previous remnant experiment lab and started to link the two sightings together.

“But, what could this all mean?”

Regarding the records of the Great Magus Serholm, they only appeared in poems and travel notes.

Leylin had not yet discovered any journals that covered the happenings of the Great Magus Serholm in detail. According to his conjecture, this information should only be available at the official Magus level.

“It seems like it’s a large one!” Bosain licked his lips. The silver metal covered him fully, turning into a full body armour.

Bang!

A gigantic long black figure charged towards the acolytes under the concealment of the darkness.

“Chi Chi!” Countless tentacles reached out, wrapping on the figure of the black figure.

Roth guffawed, “I caught you!”

“Illuminating Spell!” Shaya held a bright light ball in her hands and tossed it in the air.

The light ball exploded in midair, and shone down, illuminating the cave like a sun.

Leylin squinted his eyes and sized up the creature that Roth had bound.

A giant snake, more than a dozen metres long, and was black in colour all over. It was filled with the rhombus-shaped scales that Leylin had noticed earlier. On its back, there was a long red line, stretching from the head to its tail.

On the middle of the snake’s head, there was a small stubby horn, emitting immense energy waves from it.

Under the horn was a pair of triangular shaped pupils. Its bright yellow eyes looked like amber, as it stared at Leylin and the rest.

At this moment, the giant snake seemed to be held down by a ball of tentacles wrapped around it, rooted to the spot.

Compared with the snake, Roth seemed like a midget. The scene was somewhat comical.

“A.I. Chip! Scan the creature!” Leylin ordered.

[Similarity to the Black Horrall Snake: 98.7%! Neborake Mamba: 75%! Mankestre Snake: 34.6%!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“Black Horrall Snake? Bring out its data!” Leylin’s brow’s furrowed.

[Black Horrall Snake, an extremely dangerous being. It contains a trace of bloodline of the ancient creature—Kemoyin Serpent, which is known to contain tremendous might and an astonishing life force!]

[Source of information: Ancient Creatures Illustrated Handbook, Catalog of Dangerous Creatures.]

Chapter 111: Contract Scroll

“Scan the stats of the Black Horrall Snake in front of me!”

Leylin ordered once again.

[Beep! Target stats: Strength: 18, Agility: 15, Vitality: 20, Spiritual Force: 22.

Abilities – 1. Scales Defence: The Black Horrall Snake rhombus scales has a defensive force field encircling it at all times. Immune to physical and magical attacks under 5 degrees. Moreover, it has a huge negation towards attack of 5 degrees and more. 2. Shadow Stealth: Inheriting the Kemoyin Serpent’s shadow powers allows the Black Horrall Snake to enter into a stealth state anytime, withdrawing all signs of energy waves. 3. Lightning blaze: Emits a lightning flame from the horn. Estimated degree of attack: 12 to 15 degrees. Status: Extremely weak!]

“Stats like this...”

Leylin’s eyes widened, “It has long since surpassed the boundaries of a Level 3 Acolyte, and is most likely close to that of an official Magus?”

There were no records of the stats of official Magus in the A.I. Chip, so Leylin could only guess.

“Roth, careful! This is a Black Horrall Snake! Its might is extremely higher, much higher than your imagination!”

“Hisssssss!”

Before Leylin had finished warning him, the Black Horrall Snake let out an ear-piercing hiss.

The massive body of the Black Horrall Snake began to writhe and the tail was sent flailing. The cave seemed to shake.

Pa Pa! The milky white tentacles broke constantly, and from its wounds, there was white dense pus.

The triangular pupils of the Black Horrall Snake seemed to reveal a glint of ridicule. Following which, it turned back into the eyes of a beast and bit

on Roth who had fallen to the ground.

“Save him!”

Shaya and Jayden roared, and a few green vines and silver flying knives was sent flying towards the Black Horrall Snake’s body.

Bang! The flying knives and vines hit on the scales of the Black Horrall Snake, and sparks were created.

The Black Horrall Snake did not budge at all and opened its bloody mouth, directly chomping on Roth, swallowing him with a gulp.

“Oh, no!”

On the neck of the giant snake, there was a bulge as if someone was attacking within.

Very soon, the bulge entered the stomach of the snake and the struggle within grew smaller and smaller, finally turning still.

The whole process took only a few seconds, so fast that Leylin and the others did not have time to rescue him.

“Black Horrall Snake?”

Bosain who was on the side recovered from the shock, “Isn’t that an existence that, when matured, could deal with a Rank 3 Magus? Why has it appeared here?”

“It could go against a Rank 3 Magus?”

Jayden and the others jumped in shock! Rank 3 Magus! That is the cultivation of the leader in the Lighthouse of the Night, a person who could suppress the 3 academies!

“If it’s a Rank 3 Magus, we would have long been dead, not even a speck left. Could it be that this Black Horrall Snake has not matured yet?” Leylin’s thoughts spun rapidly.

“No! It’s not correct! This is a matured Black Horrall Snake. However, due to the duration that it has been sealed for and not being able to eat, it has already regressed from a Rank 3 Magus into an elementary Rank 1

Magus! Furthermore, it was awakened by the human boy earlier...”

According to the indication from the A.I. Chip, Leylin guessed the truth.

This Black Horrall Snake could be the byproduct of the Great Magus Serholm before, and was left here according to his wishes.

There was most likely no food in this secret plane, hence, the Black Horrall Snake could only hibernate to reduce the consumption needed for its body.

However, hundreds and thousands of years have passed. Even if the Black Horrall Snake tried to conserve its strength, it could not have reversed the decomposition effect. From originally a creature which could go against a Rank 3 Magus, it had now regressed to the standard of a Rank 1 Magus.

After swallowing Roth, Black Horrall Snake’s pupils showed a hint of satisfaction, before sizing up Leylin and the others.

“It is still a young Black Horrall Snake, not even an official Magus. We still have a chance!”

Leylin was afraid that Jayden and the rest would have been dismayed and lost their fighting spirit after hearing declare it as a ‘Rank 3 Magus’, hence, he quickly shouted to boost their confidence.

Leylin had the A.I. Chip and was able to tell the truth behind the regression of the snake. Such a thing had to be kept mum. In the short period of time Jayden and the rest wouldn’t be able to discover it, so Leylin just simply told a lie in its place.

“A fledgling?” Bosain’s eyes flashed. “Indeed! This Black Horrall Snake is too weak, even weaker than a Rank 1 Magus. It is definitely in its pre-adolescent phase!”

“This is a creature which could fight against Rank 3 Magi in the future when it grows up! If I were to sign a contract with it...”

Bosain muttered and his armour immediately flashed. A metal liquid was held in his right hand, turning into a silver white sword.

“Come! The brutal Black Horrall Snake of the legends! Let me, Bosain, be your owner!”

Bosain eyes were frenzied and he directly charged forward.

Bang! The thin silver sword slashed at the Black Horrall Snake’s scales, creating a long gash. A few palm sized scales too dropped out.

“Indeed, it if were a matured Black Horrall Snake, I would have no chances at all to break its defensive forcefield!”

Bosain hollered, “This is mine! This Black Horrall Snake must definitely belong to me!”

“Hisssssssss!” The Black Horrall Snake hissed angrily and flung its tail.

Bang! As if it were a black lightning, the long tail viciously struck Bosain.

Bosain seemed to fly out like a cannonball, creating a large hole in the walls of the cave.

Hua La La! Mud and rocks fell down, revealing Bosain who was wearing his shining white armour.

“Leylin, Jayden, and Shaya, help me to restrain it. Not only can you get the friendship of the Lilytell Family, I am also willing to give up all of the rewards obtained during this exploration!”

Bosain shook his head and finally recovered from the dizziness, seeking help from Leylin and the others.

“No matter what, let us restrain this Black Horrall Snake first. If not, we won’t have a chance to obtain anything!”

Jayden spoke as he channeled a large amount of Spiritual Force and Magic Power into the green badge.

Ripples of jade green colour continuously came from the badge.

Peng! Countless jade green vines seemed to fill the cave as it tried to entangle the Black Horrall Snake.

“Cloud of Afterlife!”

Leylin too used his spell that he was proud of. A large murky green cloud

immediately engulfed the Black Horrall Snake within, the corrosive sounds constantly emitting from within the mist.

“Comb of Vengeful Spirit!” Shaya too took out her prized Magic Artifact.

It had the appearance of a rather old wooden comb. Shaya immediately used it to comb her fire red beautiful hair.

Sssii!! The fire red hair grew rapidly. In the blink of an eye, there was already a layer of hair on the ground. After which, the ground of the whole cave was dyed red.

“It is actually a type of binding type Magic Artifact. Combined with Jayden’s green badge, it may really even restrain this Black Horrall Snake!”

An expectant look flashed across Leylin’s eyes

After the dark green Cloud of Afterlife had dissipated, it revealed the massive Black Horrall Snake’s figure within.

The scales were still gleaming, as usual, only that in that large gash that Bosain had left on its body, the surrounding flesh had been corroded to a purple black state.

The huge snake’s eyes seemed dispirited. Looking at it, it was evident that Leylin’s attack had some effect on it.

“All together!” Jayden nodded his head towards Shaya. Countless green vines from midair wrapped around the Black Horrall Snake, even around its head.

At the same time, the innumerable fire red hair on the ground was like steel net. Very soon it wrapped itself like a net, trapping the Black Horrall Snake within.

Bang!

The green vines and red hair continuously tightened, leaving circles after circles of red and green imprints on the Black Horrall Snake’s body.

The huge snake lost its balance and fell to the ground, bringing up dust and rock shards.

“Nice one!” Bosain praised them. His body in midair left several white afterimages.

After a few jumps, he came to the top of the Black Horrall Snake’s head.

“Little baby, you’re mine now!”

A smug and zealous expression filled Bosain’s face. He immediately withdrew a scroll which emitted immense energy waves, directly at the Black Horrall Snake’s eyes.

“This is... A sealing contract within a scroll!”

From the A.I. Chip’s detection, it was a power magical object. On it, a contract formation was sealed within. It had to cost at least tens of thousands of Magic Crystals. Moreover, one may not be able to buy it even with money!

This price has long since surpassed the price of many magical creatures for magicians.

From this, one could see that only those large families which had been around for many years could possess many great items.

Leylin looked at Bosain who was opening the scroll and his lips curled up.

“A pity that it is such a powerful contract scroll. If it were used against a youngling of a powerful creature, there could still be a chance of success. However, this Black Horrall Snake’s Spiritual Force is not in such a lowered state....”

Bosain who was without the A.I. Chip would naturally not think of this.

At this moment, his face carried a fevered gaze. Coupled with his trembling hands, he chanted an incantation and ripped open the magical scroll.

Bang!

An extremely radiant white light rose in front of Bosain and the black snake.

The white continuously circulated, finally forming a strange magic formation. On it was laced with mysterious runes and magic characters.

“An advanced contract spell formation! A.I. Chip, record!” Leylin immediately gave the order to the A.I. Chip.

“Come! Become my contractual partner!”

Bosain muttered. From the formation a green light appeared, directly entering the forehead of Bosain.

As for the other flash of green light, it was sent towards the Black Horrall Snake, moreover directly imprinting itself on the large skull of the Black Horrall Snake.

As if knowing that once it was bound to the contract and lose its freedom forever, the black snake thrashed continuously, resisting the entry of the green light.

“Hurry! Faster!”

Cold sweat the size of beans trickled down Bosain’s face, staring intently at the skull of the Black Horrall Snake.

“My dream, my life, when I obtain this Black Horrall Snake...”

Just when the green light had completely entered the Black Horrall Snake’s head, a strange sight occurred!

Chapter 112: Shadow Stealth

The eyes of the Black Horrall Snake revealed a human-like mocking expression.

Bang!

A tremendous amount of Spiritual Force was released, rejecting the green light instantly.

Not only that, the contract spell formation in midair exploded violently too.

Bosain's chest seemed to have been struck by a hammer and he was sent flying backwards.

Large chunks of silver armour fell and crimson red blood was constantly spurted from Bosain's mouth.

"The backlash from the contract!" Leylin who was watching from afar blurted out.

If the contract failed on a powerful creature, magicians will often suffer backlash on their Spiritual Force. Moreover, apart from that Spiritual Force backlash, there was also the attack from the creature's Spiritual Force.

Looking on, it seemed that Bosain's Spiritual Force had been severely damaged. Furthermore, due to the connection of the Spiritual Force with the Magic Artifact, the Magic Artifact had also been damaged.

Hua La La!

Just when Bosain was sent flying back, a white protection rune flew up from his body. A milky white light then engulfed Bosain who was still vomiting out blood.

This kind of milky white radiance was resplendent and filled with a sacred feeling. Under the radiance of the light, even the naked eye could see that Bosain was rapidly recovering.

"A single-use healing rune?" Leylin's eyes squinted, recognising the

origins of that white protection rune.

“There are indeed plenty of items on his body!” Although Bosain did not suffer a severe injury as was expected, Leylin was still somewhat satisfied with it. After all, it had forced him to use one of his trump cards.

The synthesizer of this protection rune had to use many precious resources. Moreover, it required a huge amount of Magic Power and Spiritual Force from an official Light Magus. Even if it was Bosain, he couldn't be holding on to another of this protection rune.

“What happened?”

Jayden and Shaya who saw Bosain flying back revealed expressions of disbelief.

“The contract binding has failed. Hurry and kill this damned black snake!”

Leylin withdrew the cross blade on his waist. With an incantation, a layer of frost covered the cross blade.

Frost Alchemy Runes! It was a type of alchemy rune that was specially used on equipment, adding on might equivalent to a low-grade Magic Artifact temporarily. After using it the equipment would normally break.

Leylin's cross blade had long since been damaged back in the bloodbath.

However, there were as many cross blades in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy as he needed for him to purchase.

The frost greatsword was immediately wielded and raised in Leylin's hands. From the blade, a terrible chillness was emitted, and this attracted the gazes of Jayden and Shaya.

“I knew it!” Jayden's roared internally, “Leylin being able to survive in the bloodbath, he definitely would have some tricks up his sleeve!”

“Bind him, I'm going up!”

Leylin looked at the black snake which was still bound by the green vines and red hair in the eye.

After releasing an explosive amount of Spiritual Force to inflict damage on Bosain, the Black Horrall Snake right now continuously writhed its massive body, the energy waves surging out rampantly.

Zhi Ya!

Countless vines and hair were broken; Jayden's and Shaya's faces, too, became more and more uneasy.

"Hurry! I can't hold on much longer!" Shaya shouted from the side.

"Cross Blade Slash!"

Leylin's muscles bulged, and his whole body seemed to increase by a size.

[The Host has entered the state of a Knight's secret technique. Strength and agility have been greatly boosted! Vitality decreased!] The A.I. Chip very soon reported the change in stats.

During the three years back in Extreme Night City, Leylin had picked up the secret technique for Knight's to enter the explosive state from Viscount Jackson.

This was even better than a secret killing move. Furthermore, the technique came from a Grand Knight, which was much better than the secret technique inherited from Leylin's Farlier Family.

Under the impressive calculations done by the A.I. Chip, Leylin incorporated Viscount Jackson's secret knight technique with his cross blade killing technique, achieving an exponential increase in the secret technique attack.

Right now, the secret technique that Leylin used had already reached the standard of a Grand Knight. The side effects had reduced, and the might was stronger than before.

Under the loud roar, Leylin jumped high in the air. Two arcs of slash were sent from the frost greatsword.

The two slashes crossed one another, forming a large 'X' in the air. Frost continued to condense, creating a layer of ice on the large 'X' which was

sent towards the Black Horrall Snake.

Chi!

The icy 'X' directly chopped at the neck of the Black Horrall Snake. Scales continuously fell and there was a layer of ice on the area.

There was a giant cross-shaped wound on the Black Horrall Snake now. The frost continued to spread and a lot of fresh blood with a trace of black coloured snake blood was forced out from the wound.

"Hisssssss!" The black snake let off an enraged cry. It violently thrashed its body and broke many more vines and hair on its body.

"Good! Maintain this might. As long as it's done several more times, we can definitely decapitate this snake!"

Glee appeared on Shaya's face.

"Hisssssssssssss!" After the madness, the Black Horrall Snake strangely calmed down.

After halting its writhing, the scales on its body continuously flashed with a black light, emitting a layer of negative energy that Leylin was familiar with.

"This is the energy particles of the Shadow element! Be careful..." Through the indication given by the A.I. Chip, Leylin immediately warned the rest.

Alas, they were a step too late!

Without warning, half of the Black Horrall Snake's body turned transparent. First, it was the scales, then the skin, the flesh and finally the bones...

The transparency very soon covered the body of the whole snake. The giant snake which had the length of a dozen metres disappeared in the next moment.

"What is this? A concealment spell? A pity that under the two restraints from our Magic Artifact, what use would that be?" Shaya spoke in bewilderment.

“It’s not a concealment spell, but one which can negate any attacks while it is in stealth mode!”

Hua La La! The countless green vines and red hair on the Black Horrall Snake seemed to lose its target in an instant. It seemed to be binding only thin air now and fell on the floor.

“A spell with an effect like this?” Jayden’s pupil shrank. “This is no longer a Rank 0 Spell, but the effect from an official Magus. Why did it not use it earlier?”

“Because the consumption was too great and it cannot withstand it for a second time!”

Leylin guessed. This Shadow Stealth was comprehended by the Black Horrall Snake as an innate skill after maturing. Moreover during its regression, it had fortunately retained this skill.

The spell achieved the effect of a Rank 1 Spell. Leylin absolutely could not imagine the might of this spell when the Black Horrall Snake was in its mature state.

“I’m afraid that even official Magi would not be able to discover it, only be swallowed as food while in fear!”

“Hurry! The triangular defensive formation!” Leylin roared.

Sou Sou! Jayden and Shaya who knew that it was not the time to be slow rushed towards Leylin’s side. Even Bosain joined them with a gloomy expression.

The four of them formed a mysterious defense formation. They stood at the three corners of it as a layer of vine and hair continued to wrap around the area, protecting the four within.

This was one of the combinations that they had agreed on previously.

An invisible enemy was the most dangerous! Leylin, highly tensed, looked at the surroundings, not knowing at all when the Black Horrall Snake would strike.

Under the illuminating spell, the whole cave was brightly lit.

There was only dried mud on the floor. Apart from scales and a few puddles of blood, there were completely no traces of the snake's tracks whatsoever.

It was as if such a massive snake had just vanished.

“Be careful, this is very similar to a Rank 1 Shadow Element Spell—Shadow Stealth. I have seen it once performed by an elder in my family. They are completely invisible on the physical plane as long as the time limit was not up, or when an enemy attacks it...”

Bosain spoke hurriedly, with a hint of anxiety and gloom in his tone.

Leylin understood the feelings behind it. No matter who it was—after losing a scroll worth tens of thousands of Magic Crystals and a rune which could protect the life—they would not feel good about it.

“What should we do? Continue to wait for it to appear?” Jayden was extremely unresigned as he controlled the vines to lash at the surrounding granite walls. A pity, however, the dust created did not help pinpoint the location of the snake.

“Snake type creatures have a strong intent for vengeance. It would definitely not leave like this. Maybe it is just around us, waiting for an opportunity...”

Leylin's voice was faintly discernible. It made Shaya who was beside him tense and kept a tight grip on that Magic Artifact comb in her hands.

“A.I. Chip! Can you detect where the Black Horrall Snake is?” Leylin asked inwardly.

[No results from scanning! No reaction from thermal detection! No energy waves from a large creature in the surroundings!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned and made Leylin's expression darken.

Regarding the spells of an official Magus, the A.I. Chip now was still somewhat helpless against them.

Hu! Suddenly, a dozen metres in front of Jayden, many translucent scales appeared in midair and yet vanished again quickly.

“There!” Jayden’s eyes flashed. Dozens of vines crisscrossed, forming a large net and was sent over.

After which, Shaya shot out a green fireball, following right behind the net.

Bang! The green net vines caught nothing but air, falling to the ground.

The fireball too caused a huge pit on the ground with an explosion, yet no traces of the snake was discovered.

“En?”

Leylin suddenly tensed up. His scalp was tingling as if being stared on by some dangerous creature.

This feeling came purely from his instincts. The A.I. Chip and the detection spells had no effects at all.

However, he completely believed in his intuition. Leylin immediately made a decisive action and rolled on the ground, away from his original position.

“Hisssss!”

Behind the place where Leylin was originally standing, there was a flickering in the air and the massive body of the Black Horrall Snake materialised.

From the huge head of the snake, a vicious ray of light flashed. The snake opened its jaws and clamped on Shaya who was standing close to Leylin’s original position. Half of her body enter the snake’s jaws as it chewed.

Boom!

An intense explosion sounded within the snake’s mouth and a layer of purple flame escaped from the jaws.

A huge energy wave was detected which led the A.I. Chip to flash indicators wildly.

“It’s Shaya! She self-destructed the Magic Artifact right before she died!”

Jayden spoke hoarsely.

Chapter 113: Blood Quintessence

“Now!”

Bosain roared and the silver armour on his body formed again. He also produced a silver longsword, which caused a few ripples in the void around it.

“All out!” Jayden’s eyes reddened. He chanted a few ancient incantation and even bit on his finger, letting the blood drip on the green badge.

Bang!

Countless vines broke out from the ground. Only that the vines now were all red and the reverse thorns were even denser. On them, there were even a tinge of green and an extremely dangerous aura came permeating from it.

“Since it’s become like this!” Leylin waved an arm, and a dozen fire red potion left his hands.

Several more bright flames were exploded on the Black Horrall Snake’s body.

Furthermore, there was a flash on Leylin’s hands, and the black longbow once again appeared in his palm.

“Frost Runes!”

Leylin chanted an incantation and a layer of frost covered the original black longbow, turning the arrows into icy shards!

“Kill!!!”

The 3 different voices sounded at the same time.

The red vines had a faster speed than before, even bringing a gale of wind. In an instant, it had already bound the Black Horrall Snake which was rolling on the floor.

At the same moment, an icy arrow shot past the void and pierced through the right eye of the black snake.

“Hissssssss!”

The Black Horrall Snake’s mouth was set on fire and one of its eyeballs had burst. From the socket, there was a huge amount of resplendent and translucent fluid that poured out. The snake was screeching in agony at this point in time.

“Meet your death!”

During the explosion, Bosain’s silver armour turned into a metal liquid, converging onto the longsword in his hands.

After this scene, the silver longsword immediately became five metres long. On the blade, there were even some mystical runes.

“The strongest power! The strongest state! Go to hell!”

Bosain’s muscles bulged and there were plenty of flashes of light from the spell.

Leylin only glanced at it and discovered many Rank O Spells which could temporarily increase the physical attributes of strength and vitality.

Under the support of so many spells, right now Bosain’s stats had most likely exceeded that of a Grand Knight. It was close to the evolved form of Grand Knights in myths—the Branded Swordsman!

Pu!

The longsword easily pierced through the defense of the Black Horrall Snake right into the crucial point of the giant snake, the place where the heart was.

Innumerable fresh blood laced with some blackish blood frothed out. The snake’s figure tried to raise itself, yet it was held tightly by the red vines. Also, the giant red vines climbed to where the wound was and, as if it had an intelligence of its own, it bore its way right into the wound.

“Hissssssssssss!”

The giant snake continuously bellowed and twisted as blood constantly splattered onto the muddy ground.

After struggling for a dozen of minutes, the Black Horrall Snake's left eye was completely devoid of lustre and it fell to the ground.

“Is it dead?”

Jayden looked somewhat disbelieving as he asked. The red vines were still writhing on the body of the snake.

[Target is severely injured, its life force waves are continuously declining!]

[Target's life force has fallen to the lowest!]

[Target's life force waves has completely vanished. Dead!]

The indication from the A.I. Chip let Leylin know that the giant snake was indeed dead. However, he still said, “Let's first perform some detection spells!”

Leylin was able to vividly recall the fact that the A.I. Chip could not detect the Black Horrall Snake when it was invisible.

Who knew if this black snake had some secret method which allowed it to hide its life force waves and escape the detection of the A.I. Chip!

After which, the 3 acolytes began casting many spells. Finally, they could confirm that this Black Horrall Snake—which killed two of their party members—was really dead.

After hearing this conclusion, Jayden hurriedly retracted his red vines and collapsed onto the ground.

Leylin noted that there was not a single sign of redness on Jayden's face. His pallid complexion made it extremely obvious that he had just lost a lot of blood.

As for Bosain on the other side, the greatsword had turned back into the liquid metal and was tucked back into his robes. Even the armour could not maintain its form.

Looking at it, his Magic Artifact seemed to have consumed a lot of energy.

These little tidbits of information had been recorded into the database of the A.I. Chip. Moreover, it had wildly calculated the battle state of the two and came up with a battle success rate.

Of course, in the eyes of those two, Leylin was simply an above average acolyte. Apart from his Potioneering skills, there was only his Frost Alchemy Rune which seemed decent.

This was the false image that Leylin had painstakingly created.

“Also this! Hurry and harvest them!”

Leylin looked at the black snake which was devoid of life. The wounds on its body continuously had blood flowing out from it.

A spell wave with low energy waves was formed on Leylin’s hands.

“What are you doing?” Bosain and Jayden immediately pulled their distance away from Leylin, looking at him warily.

Once the threat was gone, under the enticement of benefits, seeds of distrust was unknowingly planted and had already begun to sow between the party members.

“Just collecting the materials!” Leylin’s spell never stopped.

“Blood!” After a few chants, Leylin opened his mouth and spat out a Byron language word.

Hu Hu!

The blood puddle on the floor seemed to have a direction as they flowed towards Leylin’s palms on a few blood traces.

Countless blood few in midair, continuously converging like a bloody ball of light.

Hua La La! The void seemed to have an invisible strength that was continuously compressing the blood as it congealed, finally turning into a small rock with the colour of blood.

Di Di! The invisible energy was directly applied on the wound of the Black Horrall Snake, and the blood within its body was continuously

pulled out.

Minutes later, the Black Horrall Snake seemed to have gotten somewhat smaller, its scales turning pale.

As for Leylin, his hand now held a dozen fist-sized blood-coloured rocks.

All the blood essence of the dozen metres long Black Horrall Snake congealed only to the size of a dozen rocks.

This was one of the Rank O Spell that Leylin had learned, used specifically to harvest the blood from large creatures.

After seeing the spell effect that Leylin cast, Bosain and Jayden then relaxed their guard. However, Leylin could still detect a trace of wariness deep within their eyes.

“The Black Horrall Snake’s blood is an ingredient for many potions. I wish to have all of it. As for the other materials on the black snake, I can let go of a portion of them to match the value of the blood!”

Leylin smiled and explained.

The contents of the broken diary that Leylin saw back then in the experiment lab near Extreme Night City surfaced on his mind then. Towards several words such as ‘modulate’, ‘bloodline’ and the likes caused him have an unknown instinct to collect the blood, even at the cost of offending these two.

“Blood?” Bosain cocked his head and suddenly laughed.

“Indeed! For many Potion Masters, the blood from powerful creatures was often a necessary ingredient for their potions.”

The concept of bloodlines and such did not enter Bosain’s train of thoughts at all.

After all, many ancient creatures had been extinct for thousands and thousands of years. In many creatures within the Magus World, only traces of the ancient creatures’ reflection could be seen.

As for how to extract the ancient bloodlines, this subject had been extensively researched by many magicians, yet there were no

breakthroughs.

To obtain a fragment of gene from the blood and then reforming it into an essence, was well outside the capabilities of magicians.

Only a Rank 4 Magus of the legends or above would that have a chance of being possible.

However, a Rank 4 Magus on the South Coast was just a myth.

“This Black Horrall Snake’s ingredients are at least worth 100,000 Magic Crystals!” Jayden’s eyes gleamed and his face revealed an intoxicated expression.

Towards magical snake creatures like these, the part that was the most valuable were their scales, innards, brains and the likes. These were often the good ingredients to synthesize Magic Artifacts.

As for blood and other stuff, apart from Potion Masters and Alchemists who needed them occasionally, there were not many uses for them elsewhere.

After the circumstance where Leylin acted first, the three acolytes discussed briefly. Jayden and Bosain would then gather the most valuable few parts of the snake, then cast a preserving Rank 0 Spell before leaving the place.

To them, right now the loot from the snake was just the reward from the outer area of the remnant, who knows how many more good stuff there were inside there.

“This remnant site seems to be of an extremely high grade!”

Jayden sized up the cave to try to search for more clues, “It actually planted a sentinel mechanism right at the very start, even leaving such a dangerous creature... A pity for Roth and Shaya...”

Towards the deaths of these two party members, Leylin and the other two only put on a superficial downcasted expression before recovering very soon.

To be honest, these two acolytes had only been in contact with Leylin for

several days, so he did not feel much for them.

Magicians were often apathetic creatures. Very soon, the three diverted their attention back towards the remnant.

“Using powerful creatures to guard the remnants seems to be the style of the Kukeral period!”

Bosain seemed to recall something, “The Kukeral period’s constructions were simple and boorish. Even those warning mechanisms were extremely simple, it would not go past two stages!”

“Which is to say, once we get through another mechanism, we should be able to near the heart of the remnant!”

Jayden’s eyes gleamed, “Then what are we still waiting for?”

To him, finding information to advance into an official Magus was the most important task. Although collecting advanced ingredients was not bad, it did not have the allure of the inheritance of an official Magus, The three acolytes used various Rank O Spell to probe the interior of the cave, finally finding a hole in the corner.

The pitch black hole even grew a layer of green rust. It seems to be made of some metal.

Sssii!

A green eyeball immediately flew from the hole.

“Pa!” Jayden reached out to grab it and inserted it back into his socket.

“Not many dangers ahead. However, five thousand metres further, my spell seemed to be blocked, as if there has to be a verification of some sorts before going through. ”

On the other side, Leylin and Bosain too used their own methods to inspect the cave before giving the same results.

Chapter 114: The Dylan Gardens

“That being so, why don’t we all enter together?!”

Bosain looked at the other two.

“Certainly!” Resolve surfaced on Jayden’s face.

For him, the exploration, this time, was only considered successful if he found a Magus inheritance!

“I have no objections!” Leylin looked calm on the surface, yet it was contrary to what he felt.

He was aware of the person who left behind this inheritance and what was buried here.

“Rank 4 Magus, a virtuous person in legends, inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm!” Leylin’s heart blazed in desire.

The three had the same opinion and entered the rusty metal passage.

The tunnel was broad, enough to fit 3 adults walking side by side.

Since they were 3 youths, naturally they had more freedom for movement.

Leylin touched the wall and grey dust fell down, revealing the silver metal wall behind it.

At first, it felt was icy-cold, then again it felt warm. This metal gave a strange sensation when Leylin’s fingers touched upon it.

[Discovery of an unknown metal, not registered within database!] After a scan, the A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“This is the Crying Blood Alloy. It seems that during its casting, it requires the fresh blood of beasts or slaves. Reportedly, there is a certain limit to its effect on the spirit bodies!”

Bosain whispered into Leylin’s ears.

If magicians were treated as commoners, then Bosain would belong to nobility within magicians. His knowledge still surpassed Leylin’s in certain

areas.

Moreover, a few precious materials could only be obtained within such families, Leylin had no access to them at all.

“Blood Crying Alloy?!”

Leylin commanded silently, “A.I. Chip, record composition!”

[Beep! Target information collect, saving in database. Folder: Resource Information—Blood Crying Alloy!]

The A.I. Chip’s indicator sounded in Leylin’s ears.

“The distance to the protective screen observed earlier is becoming shorter!”

Jayden walked on the right, suddenly speaking, “Since this is a passage constructed by this type of alloy, there may be something appearing ahead...”

“A spirit body!” Leylin and Bosain called in unison, their face looking awful.

For acolytes, they lack effective defensive measures. For spiritual body attacks, they had no good countermeasures for it.

If it were regular acolytes, they would have long since retreated.

However, Leylin and the others were different. Bosain and Jayden had Magic Artifacts on them, which could be temporarily used for defense. Although those were not defensive Magic Artifacts like the Fallen Star Pendant, could still protect their spirits from being attacked for the time being.

As for Leylin himself, he had researched on spirit bodies for over two years. Under the aid of the A.I. Chip, his knowledge on spirit bodies had exceeded even a few of his professors.

At this moment, Leylin quivered.

[The negative energy density in the air has increased by an additional 3.14% than regular settings!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“This environment seemed to be recorded by the A.I. Chip before. It is one of the most suitable environments for spirit bodies to survive!”

A strong fearful instinct rose from Leylin’s body.

“It’s here!”

Leylin eyes squinted, there was a bright hole appearing in front of them.

After passing through the cave hole, Leylin, and the rest felt a radiant light whose glare bothered their eyes and they could not help but shut their eyes.

When they opened their eyes again, they had already entered a sea of flowers with varying colours.

Tulips, flaming poppies, red large winding chrysanthemum, green calla lily, various flowers that Leylin knew and don’t know were blooming in this flower garden.

The garden seemed to be under some spell. Different blooming seasons and different areas of flowers were blooming wildly in this garden.

The secular world flowers were only for decoration. After a quick whiff, Leylin discovered many useful herbs for magicians.

Many were those that even Kroft could never find. Yet now, they were sitting here in this garden.

“Violet Leaves Flower, Nose Root Fruit, Walking Dragonfly, Inverted Sunflower and there is even the Void Flower!”

Jayden and Bosain, too, gasped in amazement.

Towards the end, there were many species of flowers that Leylin could not recognise, but seeing where they were planted, their value must be above that of the Void Flower.

Right now, Leylin finally knew why the Dylan Gardens were named.

This huge garden was at least a dozen square kilometres. How much valuable plants were here? How much worth of Magic Crystals?

Leylin only thought about it for a while and felt dazed.

“Haha... the Sun Golden Flame! It’s actually the Sun Golden Flame!”

Jayden looked at a flaming plant at the middle with a fervent gaze.

“The strength of the Sun Golden Flame can even be combined with Grine Water to help Fire element acolytes to breakthrough. The success rate is increased by 20%!”

Jayden muttered and his hand unknowingly went to reach for the fire red Sun Golden Flame.

“Don’t!” Leylin seemed to thought of something and spoke suddenly.

Alas, it was too late. Jayden completely ignored Leylin’s warning and reached for the flowerbed.

Ding Ling! Ding Ling! Ding Ling!

A sound similar to chimes sounded, and was extremely melodious to the ears.

The air stopped! The wind stopped!

Leylin and the other two felt nothing below their feet and was immediately shifted to another area.

It seemed to be the interior of a villa. The four walls were displayed with brand new furniture. On the pale yellow desk, there was a lamp which contained an orange-red flame.

“Where is this place?”

Jayden spoke, losing his voice.

“A type of defense mechanism. It seems like we have been transported to another area!” Leylin smiled wryly.

Bosain was looking at Jayden right now, and he no longer appeared friendly.

“However, there is also good news. According to the Kukeral period’s traditions, if we solve this mechanism, most of the remnant’s defensive mechanism will immediately lose their effect.”

Bosain’s face darkened, “Originally, we had many opportunities to

explore, and this is all because of you!”

He pointed at Jayden. Leylin suspected that if not for the dangers lurking in the area Bosain would most likely attack him.

“Teehee! Who’s here to play with Alice?”

A mechanical girl’s voice sounded.

At the turn of a corridor, something appeared—a Western Doll?

Leylin noticed the giant mannequin that was in the shadows of the corridor’s corner.

This western doll seemed to have to size of a grown adult. The eyeballs were of blue gems sewn in. It wore a pink frock and had beautiful blonde hair. On the chest, there was a red bowknot.

“A vengeful spirit figurine!” Bosain stuttered.

“Vengeful spirit figurine?” Leylin had not heard of this word before.

Obviously, this was a spirit body of some sort. Looking at the physical body of the vengeful spirit figurine, Leylin realised that his research and probes on the spirit aspect had just been on a superficial level.

At the very least, he was completely clueless about these types of vengeful spirits that seemed to border between illusion and reality.

“Hehe! You come play with Alice!”

The blonde girl pointed a finger at Leylin. Her arms were made of fabric and had no palm. Only a naked arm which was a glossy hemisphere.

Bang!

A translucent forcefield immediately exploded behind Leylin. He flew up in the air and could not stop himself as he flew towards the cloth doll.

“Come here! My little baby! Let Alice give you a hug!”

The cloth doll spread her arms as if wanting to hug Leylin.

Jayden and Bosain looked at each other and immediately left the cloth doll and retreated. They actually abandoned Leylin and left.

“Fuck!” Leylin tossed two balls of flames on the cloth doll and set it ablaze.

However, the fire was quickly extinguished, and not even a trace of the damage was found on the cloth doll.

Ding! Many baby sized arms appeared faintly from the void and seemed to pull on Leylin. A pair of girl’s arms was even touching Leylin’s waist now.

A numb feeling was immediately spreading from his waist.

Leylin’s eyes flashed in viciousness and immediately threw a yellow potion on the ground.

A yellow protection screen immediately appeared around Leylin’s body, separating the countless baby sized arms.

Trevor’s Revolving Shield Potion!

The only defense potion that Leylin had access to was now duly exhibiting its effects.

“Argh! You have hurt Alice!”

The cloth doll’s face split opened, revealing razor sharp teeth, “I’m going to eat you!”

A pair of half transparent beast mouth immediately appeared before Leylin and nipped down.

Ka-Cha! Ripples seemed to have formed on the yellow defensive light shield, letting off noises that could no longer endure the attack.

“This attack is quickly exceeding the capabilities of the potion!”

Leylin felt for the item on his neck, “Now is not the right moment to use my trump card!”

After which, a red flaming potion was tossed out by Leylin.

“Intense Blazing Potion! Also this!” Leylin felt for several pink coloured pearls in his sack and threw it into the flames.

During his stay at Extreme Night City, he had some results from

researching spirit bodies.

Apart from researching the laws of the spirit bodies, he also obtained some information on what those spirit bodies hated the most and what could hurt them. This pink coloured pearls contained one of the best effects.

Pu! The pink pearls very soon exploded in the flames, revealing pink powder.

After this addition, the flame turned pink too. It continued to spread until it filled the jaws of the beast.

The huge jaws of the beast let off a terrifying roar and was very soon burnt to ashes by the flame.

At the same time, the flame seemed to have gone through the void, extending to the face of the cloth doll. The cloth doll covered its face as it let out a loud and indignant howl.

After the final wisp of flame had disappeared, the radiant screen on Leylin's body had completely vanished.

Leylin landed on the floor. On his waist were the scars caused by two tiny hands. His brows furrowed. The clothes on his back had already been corroded, leaving behind two small black imprints on the skin.

"The injury caused by a spirit body must be removed immediately, if not it will continue to spread!"

Leylin hurriedly withdrew several white leaves and applied on the wound. Suddenly a refreshing feeling could be felt from the injury.

Pa! Pa!

The windows on the side were broken, and two figures immediately charged in.

Bosain looked at Jayden, the surroundings and then looked at Leylin on the ground. He smiled wryly, "It seems like no matter where we go, we will always return here!"

Chapter 115: Falling Out

“It seems like we have to get rid of her first!”

Leylin’s face was expressionless as he pointed to the cloth doll which was still clutching its face.

Regarding the matter of the other two abandoning him earlier, it seemed like the trio were suffering from selective amnesia.

Leylin understood that if he were to fall out with these two now, it would be a devastating loss.

Concerning this vengeful spirit figurine, they could only work together to even have a chance at defeating or even killing it.

As for that incident earlier, there would be plenty of opportunities later to get back at them!

“Fire! Alice hates fire the most!”

At this moment, the pink flame had already been extinguished on the pink doll’s face.

The originally beautiful face of the cloth doll was now charred black. Even an eyeball was now missing.

However the doll still laughed and said, “The three of you, let’s play together!”

With a wave of its hand, the tables and chairs began to jump around. Even the lamps and closet seemed to grow a pair of small legs as they danced and sang nursery rhymes, gradually surrounding Leylin and the other two.

“Umbra’s Hand!”

“Corrosive Blaze!”

“Acidic Aqua Shot!”

.....

The trio constantly cast their spells on the tables and other furniture

surrounding them. However, these creatures were too many, even if they killed a couple there was of not much use.

Moreover, even if they used their Magic Artifacts to attack the doll, it would at most leave behind some scars and was mostly ineffective.

In the end, the 3 acolytes were back to back, already confined by the figurine in an extremely small area.

“There is no other choice!”

Bosain looked at Jayden and Leylin who had pale expressions on their faces, and a hint of viciousness flashed across his own.

“I have a formidable spell which requires time for preparation. Stall this freak for me!”

Saying which, Bosain withdrew a grey scroll that was drawn with various mystical patterns, immediately sitting cross-legged on the floor and chanted an incantation.

Hope glowed on the faces of Leylin and Jayden. They cast their spells with great difficulty, blocking the advance of the monsters.

“He’s finally forced to use it, huh!” Leylin thought.

Jayden’s frail state was real. However, Leylin was just feigning his frailty. However, the situation earlier was extremely dire. Just a little more and Leylin would have had to use the Fallen Star Pendant for defense.

However, from Bosain’s point of view, Leylin and Jayden were newly advanced Level 3 Acolyte. Their Spiritual Force and Magic Power had long since been depleted.

Even Jayden had used his Magic Artifact several times.

As for Leylin, a Potioneering acolyte, being able to last till here had somewhat exceeded Bosain’s expectations.

Of course, he did not know that although Leylin had advanced not too long ago, under the aid of potions, Leylin’s Spiritual Force now was even stronger than his own which he had accumulated over some time and formed a sturdy foundation for an official Magus advancement.

Furthermore, Leylin had even concealed his defense type Magic Artifact.

“A healing rune which was used earlier, an attack scroll, a contract scroll and a Magic Artifact which can take on the form of anything to attack and defense!”

Leylin flung his potions and chanted an incantation, constantly panting.

“Although Bosain belongs to a large family, he is after all only an acolyte. With these items, he is already unfathomable!”

Under the concealment of the intense energy waves from spells, Leylin secretly calculated the remaining energy of Bosain.

Dozens of seconds later, Bosain had finally completed his activation of the magic scroll. The grey scroll was now floating in midair, emitting a fire red light.

“This energy wave! It’s a Rank 1 Spell! No wonder it needs such a long activation time!”

Leylin’s pupils shrank. Immense energy waves came from the scroll, not only did it send the creatures surrounding them in retreat, it faintly caused Leylin and Jayden to be unable to breathe.

Bosain’s family had actually provided him with a Rank 1 Magus spell stored in a scroll, as his greatest trump card!

“He is indeed from one of the three big families, who are rich and overbearing!”

This scroll contained a seal Rank 1 Spell. Not only was the ingredients for it exorbitant, it required the official Magus to cast this spell over a dozen times to imbue it. Moreover, there needs to be a Grand Alchemist who is skilled in imbuing spell formations. Every one of these scrolls was extravagant.

Each scroll was at least 100,000 Magic Crystals and above!

It had a sky-high cost and also there was the difficulty of imbuing. Apart from acolytes, official Magus would not have much use for it. Various reasons had caused scrolls like this to be rare in their numbers. Only large

families like the Lilytell Family would be able to have 1 or 2 of it.

After forking out such a price, the scroll's might was extremely deafening!

Fire red energy waves continuously radiated, and the scroll automatically burned within the light.

The flame, under the bright yellow light, revealed a giant Three-Legged Golden Crow.

The Three-Legged Golden Crow used its beak to ruffle its feathers, continuously issuing crystal clear cawing.

As if like a real bird. Moreover, from the black pupils, signs of intelligence were observed, it seemed to have wisdom.

"Go!" Bosain's face now was extremely pale as he punctured his lips with his teeth. On the side of the eyes, there was sweat rolling off, yet he let off an extremely zealous expression as he pointed at the cloth doll.

It seems like the spell he cast earlier allowed him to have a huge sense of satisfaction.

"No! Don't come over! Alice is scared!"

The cloth doll opposite retreated 3 steps. On that figurine's face, there was an expression of fear, as if a little girl had encountered a bad guy.

However, Leylin and the others were not moved by this scene.

Along with Bosain's orders, the Three-Legged Golden Crow flapped its wings and the bright yellow wings burned with flames as it flew around Bosain and the other two in a circle.

Several bean-sized flame dropped onto the furniture which had been given life.

Bang! Balls of yellow flames were set ablaze, and the various chairs and tables were each reduced to a pile of grey ashes.

"Jiu Jiu!"

The Three-Legged Golden Crow let out an elegant cry and flew across in

the air, directly landing in front of the cloth doll.

The bright, red, conical beak took aim and gave the cloth doll a light peck!

“Arghh!” The cloth doll Alice let out a frightened whimper and its body was immediately set on fire with the bright yellow flame.

“Save Alice, Alice is actually very obedient...”

The figurine collapsed on the ground, reaching out a hand towards Leylin and the others, its voice carrying a hint of pleading.

Leylin and Jayden turned around and saw a crazed expression in Bosain’s eyes as he continued to ignite the flame.

The bright yellow flame burned continuously, finally turning the cloth doll in ashes.

“Alright!” Bosain turned over and faced Leylin and Jayden, revealing a smiling face with his intentions unknown.

Leylin’s heart skipped a beat and his hand already reached towards his neck.

“Jiu Jiu!”

At this moment, the Three-Legged Golden Crow cawed and turned into the grey scroll earlier as it fell to the ground.

“Pa!”

The grey scroll disintegrated into ashes into the surroundings.

After seeing the energy of the scroll fully utilised, Bosain’s face looked terribly unsightly, but he still forced a smile on his face.

“Alright, the creature is dealt with. Let us find the way out...”

Just when Leylin was about to say something, another loud crash sounded. Behind the cloth doll, the walls shook and revealed a crack, showing a straight tunnel.

On the wooden boards of the wall, there was a line of characters written in the ancient Byron language.

Seekers who are able to come here will have a chance to obtain my inheritance—Norco Curadu Sfar.

“Norco Curadu Sfar is the Magus who left behind this inheritance?” Jayden revealed a longing and curious expression.

As for Bosain on his side, he muttered the name, Norco Curadu Sfar, repeatedly. An ecstatic expression gleamed in his eyes but was quickly restrained.

However, this had been seen by Leylin who had been observing him furtively. He knew that Bosain had definitely thought what the name had represented.

“I seemed to have heard of this name, but it’s very vague now!” At this moment, Leylin also scratched his head, revealing a ‘dazed’ expression.

“No matter who, it’s definitely an official Magus! And his inheritance will definitely let me advance!” Jayden was extremely zealous and immediately rushed into the tunnel.

“Follow him!” Bosain and Leylin followed closely behind Jayden.

After walking through the tunnel, Leylin and the others came to a study-room-like place.

The four walls were filled with bookshelves, yet not a single book was to be seen, which made Leylin blurt out that it was a pity.

As for the large table in the centre, there was a black box placed neatly on it.

Behind the study desk, there was a chair and a strange oil painting.

The oil painting showed a mysterious emblem—countless mystical runes formed a snake. The snake traced its own tail, forming the picture of a circle!

“I seem to have seen this emblem somewhere before!” Leylin was somewhat confused but he threw that thought away.

“It seems like this place was set up by the Great Magus Serholm for his inheritance. This Great Magus is still somewhat benevolent. The

mechanisms were all below the strength of an official Magus. If not, with just a little increase in difficulty, we would all have perished in here!”

Leylin was somewhat happy to let Jayden and the others come here with him. If not, just with his strength alone he would not have been able to reach this place.

“Wasn’t there a magician called ‘Norco’? Where are his remnants?” Leylin wished to ask this question, but it was very soon flung to the back of his head.

Because the scene right now took on a massive change!

After seeing the black box on the study desk, Bosain’s and Jayden’s panting started to become heavier.

Bang!

A silver white longsword suddenly appeared in Bosain’s hands and was sent slashing towards Jayden.

The vine armour on Jayden’s body flashed, but a cut still appeared; his arm bleeding profusely.

Sou Sou Sou!

The three of them immediately kept a distance from one another.

“As expected, in the end, we are going to fall out huh?” Jayden clutched his arm, letting off a bitter smile.

Looking at Jayden in this state, Leylin suddenly recalled that when they set off together, Jayden did not request for them to sign any contract. It seems like he had long since anticipated an outcome like this.

Chapter 116: Taking Action

“Indeed! The inheritance of an official Magus is a sufficient reason for this fellowship to be broken!”

Jayden spoke slowly.

“Not only that!” Now, the metal liquid covered Bosain’s body and turned into a silver white armour.

“If it was just a spell model, Grine Water or something of that sort, I wouldn’t mind at all. But this is Norco Curadu Sfar’s legacy!”

Bosain’s face became flushed.

“We are talking about the Great Magus Serholm! The inheritance of a Rank 4 Morning Star Magus!”

“The Great Magus Serholm?!” Clarity appeared on Jayden’s face. Of course, he had heard of the legend of this great Magus.

However, in the legends, the Great Magus Serholm used an alternative title. Apart from Leylin who had an overpowered way to store data and Bosain who had a solid family foundation, there were many who weren’t aware of this fact.

“Since you know the reason, you can die in peace!”

Bosain did not conceal the killing intent on his face as he viciously slashed the silver white sword down upon Jayden.

Hua! The longsword split into countless small silver needles that were sent flying towards Jayden.

“Form a shield!” Jayden shouted. More vines appeared from the badge and took the form of a large shield, in front of Jayden.

Ding Ding Dang Dang! Countless needles fell like rain onto his shield, creating many small holes.

The huge impact sent Jayden staggering backwards. His face became filled with despair.

“Jayden! I know all of your tricks. Apart from your Magic Artifact what other trump cards do you have?”

Bosain spoke these words to try and shatter Jayden’s confidence.

Jayden retreated until his back hit a wall, then he turned his head and shouted to Leylin. “Leylin! Let’s act together! If not we will both die!”

“Leylin! Don’t believe him! If you can stay neutral and be on the sidelines, or even help me, I swear that you will obtain the friendship of the Lilytell Family!”

After listening to the persuasion of both sides, Leylin appeared panic-stricken; he staggered back two steps and spoke in a quivering voice. “No! I don’t want any inheritance anymore, just let me go....”

After hearing those words, Jayden’s face looked even more aghast and anxious. Even his vine shield had become smaller in size.

Bosain, on the other hand, laughed loudly. “Haha... My Lilytell Family will definitely welcome a Potions Master like Leylin...”

“As for you Jayden! You’re finished!”

The longsword in Bosain’s hands split again and each droplet of liquid metal floated in the air, turning into dart-like objects.

“With my blood....”

After seeing the opponent’s attack, hopelessness surfaced on Jayden’s face. He used the same method as before and smeared his blood on the green badge.

In an instant, the green vine shield turned into a red giant one.

“The energy in your badge should deplete soon huh? Even if you use your blood as a substitute how long can you last?!”

Bosain shouted and sent countless needles flying towards Jayden.

Bang!

The red shield exploded and the innumerable needles pierced Jayden’s body.

With countless holes present all over his body, Jayden was immediately dyed red. Regret and disbelief filled his face as he fell slowly to the ground.

“Hu hu...” Bosain was panting somewhat loudly at this moment. He turned around and faced Leylin.

“Well done! You did not attack me with him earlier!” With a sinister smile, Bosain pointed at Jayden who laid within a pool of blood.

“I, the heir to the Lilytell Family, the pride of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the silver white swordsman Bosain will grant you your preferred choice of death!”

As he spoke, a commiserating yet toying expression appeared on his face; he was like a lion or tiger who was playing with a rabbit.

“Choice... Way to die....” Leylin squeezed out a smile, “Mister Bosain, I don’t quite understand you!”

“My meaning is extremely clear, you can only die here!” Bosain’s expression was cold, “The inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm is too important. I cannot allow the possibility of you leaking any information!”

“Originally, as a genius in Potioneering, you had a bright future. What a pity...” Bosain looked at Leylin regretfully, as if feeling sorry for his plight.

“Perhaps, you would like to end your own life ... It might reduce some of the pain...”

Bosain edged closer and closer to Leylin, his voice gentle yet enticing.

There seemed to be a magical force in his voice, luring Leylin to do things the way he said.

Leylin’s eyes went blank, his lips unconsciously formed the following, “I want to...”

“It’s going to be a success!” exclaimed Bosain, gleefully.

At that moment, Leylin raised his head and grinned, revealing a pair of bright and shiny teeth, he said, “I want you dead!”

Bang!

A silver streak flew from Leylin's hand onto Bosain's face.

Shock filled Bosain's face, but a layer of liquid metal automatically formed a mask, protecting his face.

Ka-Cha! The silver light skid against the mask, emitting sparks.

"A pity that it's a Magic Artifact with instantaneous defensive capabilities!"

Leylin looked at Bosain who was retreating, his face showed a hint of regret and disappointment.

"You... You were pretending earlier!" Bosain touched his face which had already swollen, and his expression began to contort.

"Such a boring illusory spell! I was not afraid of it when I was a Level 2 Acolyte!"

Leylin smiled brightly, "This look suits you very well! Like a pig head!"

"You're seeking death!"

Bosain's face was flushed from anger; the liquid metal crept and covered his whole body, forming a silver armour.

His eyes were a little bloodshot as he brandished his longsword and charged towards Leylin.

"I want to pluck each and every tendon from your body, you useless trash who only knows Potioneering!"

"Oh really?"

Leylin frowned. A black longbow appeared in his hands and a frost arrow was shot.

Sssii! Bosain did not dodge nor hide, letting the arrow land on his body.

The frost arrow was blocked by the silver armour and turned into a white mist that covered the surface of Bosain's armour.

Suffering from its effect, Bosain's speed had lowered somewhat.

"I have been watching you all along – all the potions in your bag should

have been fully used up, am I right?” Bosain smiled maliciously, directly rushing at Leylin.

“An accurate guess!”

Leylin’s smile did not waver, which suddenly made Bosain feel a bad premonition.

“It is unfortunate, but my trump card is not related to potions!”

“Fallen Star Pendant! Activate!”

Along with Leylin’s command, a layer of silver-grey light radiated from his body.

This layer seemed like starlight, dim but sturdy and unwavering. It covered Leylin’s body forming a silver-grey armour all over him. On the surface of this armour, a few gems were flickering.

Bang!

Bosain struck with his longsword, but he was blocked directly and grabbed by Leylin’s right hand, which was covered by the armour. Following which, Leylin viciously punched Bosain’s face!

Ka-Cha!

The mask on Bosain’s face dented inwards and he immediately spat out several teeth as he flew backwards with a look of disbelief on his face.

“As expected using fists to hit someone feels the best!”

Leylin narrows his eyes and spoke with some satisfaction.

Hua La La! Bosain crashed into a few empty bookshelves and they toppled over him. Numerous decomposing wooden boards buried Bosain within the rubble.

Bang! The wooden boards were blasted away. Once again Bosain stood before Leylin with his bright silver armour.

“I have underestimated you! A defensive type Magic Artifact! You are actually the one amongst us with the most secrets!”

Bosain’s face now was extremely solemn. However, with two swollen

lumps on both sides of his face, Leylin felt like laughing when he saw him.

“Too much nonsensical stuff has been said!”

Leylin’s muscles bulged and he clashed with Bosain.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Booming noises sounded from the study room, sending dust flying everywhere. Through the barely visible dust screen, two humanoid creatures wearing armour could be seen charging at each other.

These two creatures seemed not to be afraid of injuries. They only used the most brutal and barbaric fighting style – completely forsaking their defence, each one simply attacked his opponent.

Bookshelves collapsed continuously and chaos ensued.

If not for the two creatures deliberately avoiding the middle study-table containing the remnants, it, too, would have shared the fate of those bookshelves.

With the seconds turning into minutes, it could be seen that the human figure – the one with the bright silver armour – seemed to be at a disadvantage. The white light on it, too, had somewhat dimmed.

Finally, with a punch from the person armoured a silver-grey, the bright silver armour broke, turning back into its liquid metal form, and then it was restored to its original ball-shaped form.

Leylin once again stomped on Bosain who was on the floor.

Crack!, the sound of breaking bones could be heard from Bosain’s chest.

After which, a shoe coated in silver-grey light nonchalantly stepped on his chest.

One corner of Bosain’s lips was overflowing with blood, “I regret this! If only my scroll was still here, if only I didn’t use ‘silver light’ so many times earlier!”

Ka-Cha!

Leylin’s eyes were devoid of emotion. He showed no quarter towards

Bosain and withdrew a dagger from his robes and severed all 4 of Bosain's limbs.

“Arghh....”

Bosain's facial muscles contorted, and cries of anguish reverberated in the whole study room.

Leylin kicked the severed limbs away and took out a hemostasis potion, after which he took out a hemostasis potion and poured it on Bosain's wound – he wasn't going to let Bosain bleed to death.

“You...Just kill me!” Bosain's face was extremely pale as he forced the words out from his mouth.

“How could I have the audacity to kill a member of the mighty Lilytell Family?”

Leylin smiled slightly, yet to Bosain, it seemed to be a very sinister and sadistic smile.

“As the heir of a Magus Family, you would definitely have some tracking spell cast on you by an official Magus. It is very likely that once I killed you, that official Magus would be able to sense it!”

Leylin spoke slowly. At the same time, Bosain's expression turned completely ashen.

Chapter 117: True Or False

Upon seeing the sight of Bosain collapsed on the ground, Leylin did not feel any pleasure.

“You were a worthy opponent – your strength, your equipment, and even your cunning are highly admirable and hard to overcome! Concealing my strength, draining the energy of your Magic Artifact and making you use all of your trump cards – if I had not done all these, today’s victor could certainly have been reversed...”

These were sincere words from Leylin.

If he hadn’t disguised himself as a pig but one that could eat a tiger and saw that Bosain had drained the energy of his Magic Artifact “Silver Light” and also the opportunities that made Bosain reveal his trump cards, the outcome of the battle between Leylin and Bosain would have been rewritten.

But ultimately, Bosain was killed at the hands of Leylin. Even his death could not be decided by himself.

This time’s affair caused Leylin to understand this fact.

In the Magus World, there were innumerable geniuses and even more trump cards. In the future, unless necessary, it was better if he kept a low profile.

Moreover, every one more trump card one has is equivalent to a little more odds of survival.

“You will certainly be found by my father; you will die an unbearable and miserable death...” As Bosain was speaking, his eyes suddenly bulged.

Pu! A bright silvery flash occurred as Leylin’s arms moved, and Bosain’s tongue was cut off!

“As far as acolytes are concerned, so long as they can chant incantations, they are dangerous...”

Leylin, unenthusiastically looking at Bosain who was on the verge of

fainting, said, “As I was saying, even though your Spiritual Force and Magic Power has all been consumed, I must not let down my guard!”

“Bind!”

Leylin chanted an incantation and immediately summoned a shadow chain and bound Bosain who had lost his four limbs.

Bosain looked at Leylin who could still cast spells, and his eyes dimmed.

The fact that Leylin could still cast spells meant that his Spiritual Force and Magic Power was above that of Bosain, yet Bosain already had the Spiritual Force criteria to advance into an official Magus!

“Just one safety lock isn’t enough!”

Leylin frowned and placed the tip of his long, pure white finger on Bosain’s forehead and pressed.

Weng!

A mysterious writhing rune was formed at Leylin’s fingertip. It coursed through Bosain’s body and entered the forehead area.

Bosain’s eyes flashed white and his body spasmed, before fainting.

“Alright now!”

Leylin stood up and patted his hands, his eyes showing an unspeakable amount of desire.

“Right now, there only thing left is the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm!”

The light from the Fallen Star Pendant had always covered Leylin’s body. With a face full of wariness, he crossed over many fallen shelves and came to the centre where the study desk was.

On the study desk, there was a black box. On it was a few thin patterns, as if formed by little snakes.

“Adjust the Fallen Star Pendant’s form and change focus area: right hand!”

Along with Leylin’s command, the grey light on his body flickered and

the other areas apart from the right hand dimmed. It all gathered on the fight hand, forming a thick armour.

Leylin gritted his teeth and reached out his right hand to open the black box.

Pa! The lid of the black box was opened. However it exceeded Leylin's expectations and nothing happened.

In the box was a thick, black book. As for the other empty areas in the box, it was filled with a type of red silk, looking extravagant.

Leylin picked up the book. Ka-Cha! A mechanical sound reverberated throughout the room.

"Damn it!"

Leylin looked at the bottom of the interior of the box after taking the book and was somewhat stupefied.

At the bottom, where after the black book was removed, a Byron language sentence was written in cursive font. "Inheritor! When you take away this 'Book of Giant Serpent', the whole secret plane will self-destruct within 3 hourglasses worth of time."

This row of words was written in blood and seemed extremely striking.

"What exactly was this Great Magus Serholm trying to do?"

Leylin's thoughts rapidly spun. The 3 hourglasses worth of time was enough for him to find an exit and even farm some of the flowers in the garden before leaving.

"No! Not right. Too easy! There's something wrong!"

Leylin hurriedly flipped open the Book of Giant Serpent.

"A.I. Chip! Record information!"

The whole book was extremely thick and was written in tiny characters. It was even written in code. If it was any other person, he would most likely not be able to even finish reading the preface of the book before the time of 3 hourglasses was up.

However, Leylin was different. He flipped through the Book of Giant Serpent in a frenzy. In his eyes a blue light surfaced, and the A.I. Chip continuously recorded the information.

In less than the time of half an hourglass, Leylin already flipped through the Book of Giant Serpent once.

“A.I. Chip! How is it going?”

[Information sort is in progress.... Deleting useless information obtained the real content from the Book of Giant Serpent!]

[667 pages of travel notes, 78 experiment notes, 12 Rank 1 spell models, 3 Rank 2 spell models!]

The A.I. Chip quickly sent the information to Leylin’s brain.

“It isn’t there! There is no information about a high-grade meditation technique!” Leylin realised this crucial point.

“According to the vengeful spirit, Roman, the Great Magus Serholm had indeed left a copy of high-grade meditation technique! This reward is considered extremely bountiful to normal acolytes and even Rank 1 Magi. However without the high-grade meditation technique, it’s a failure!”

[Alert! Alert! The host is in a place with unstable energy and it is estimated to collapse in 15minutes 45seconds, counting down...]

The A.I. Chip showed a string of warnings, constantly flashing in front of Leylin.

“A.I. Chip, scan the study room!”

A resolve expression appeared on Leylin’s face, as he began to use various detection techniques to search for concealed compartments in the room.

After 5 minutes, Leylin’s face turned even more unsightly.

“I estimate that I need 5 minutes to leave this place. Which is to say, the time left for me to search is only 6 more minutes! I have to leave before that!”

Although Leylin wanted the high-grade meditation technique badly, he valued his life more than the technique.

“The study desk is okay! No problem with the chair! Oil painting, oil painting!”

Leylin stared fixedly at a most suspicious-looking oil painting.

Apart from an emblem with the similar sign of the Ouroboros[1], there was nothing else on that canvas.

“Eh?!”

At this moment, Leylin discovered a tiny object within his robes radiating heat.

He reached in and withdrew a cheap yellow bronze ring.

This ring seemed to be extremely average – there was even some scratches and rust on it. Inscribed on the surface of the ring was the letter ‘K’, which seemed to represent the emblem of some organisation.

“This is... the ring that was obtained from Roman’s remains!” Leylin thought about the origins of this ring.

Back when he was in Extreme Night City, after searching the lab of the Great Magus Serholm, he found the corpse of the vengeful spirit, Roman. This ring was found on his corpse.

It seems that the vengeful spirit Roman did not just obtain this information. Moreover, he somehow managed to hide some information from Leylin.

Leylin stroked the yellow bronze ring on his finger.

The closer he walked to the oil painting, the more heat the ring emitted. Moreover, there was even light emitting from the letter ‘K’.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

On the bottom area of the oil painting, part of it fell, revealing an empty hole which had the ‘K’ symbol, the same as the ring.

Leylin fitted the ring in the gap! Bang! Both sides seamed tightly, and a

strange energy wave radiated from it.

Sssii!!

The black snake in runes on the oil painting seemed to come alive and a scarlet gleam was there its eyes. It continuously chased after its tail, spinning within the painting.

The spinning speed of the black snake kept increasing, finally turning into a black hole.

In the hole, there was the space of a small cabinet. In it was a cage that was made of crimson lightning.

Leylin gritted his teeth and looked at the decreasing amount of time, immediately reaching his hands to it.

Bang!

An ancient voice suddenly sounded in Leylin's brain.

"The test has begun. Begin to portray this spell formation within 30 seconds!" A yellow, illusory figure, formed by the spell, appeared in front of Leylin.

"There is even a spell?!" Leylin was now convinced that this Great Magus Serholm was a sadist.

Under the circumstances of the secret plane collapsing, he even intended for the inheritor to complete a test!

Moreover, even if it was a basic spell model, it would at least require several hours of time. 30 seconds? He's plainly toying with others!

"A.I. Chip! Immediately decrypt with full operational capabilities!"

With Leylin's order, a bright blue light flashed in his eyes. This was the greatest calculation abilities that the A.I. Chip projected.

[Mission establishing, beginning analysis...] The A.I. Chip loyally carried out its duty, very soon projecting the completed spell formation in Leylin's brain.

"Construction completed; next test. Within 30 seconds construct this

spell formation!” This time, it was a blue formation.

Leylin rolled his eyes and continued to use the A.I. Chip to analyse.

Afterwards, it was the third spell formation, black coloured. This time, the required analysis surpassed Leylin’s expectations. Right before the 30 seconds timer was up he then managed to complete the formation.

“Will it end now?”

Leylin thought after finishing the third formation.

However, at this moment, the yellow, blue and black formation in his brain began to converge suddenly.

Ka-Cha! After the 3 spell formations instantly merged, it turned into a scarlet coloured spell formation. On the surface, it was filled with many mysterious runes.

Sssii! The scarlet lightning behind the oil painting seemed to have been attracted to him and entered Leylin’s body immediately.

“My inheritor! You must have the courage and wise, be astute and filled with knowledge. Only then, can you break through the shackles of Bloodline...”

That ancient voice sounded once again in Leylin’s mind.

At this moment, the A.I. Chip indicated, [A Spiritual Force data has been received, to accept or deny transmission?]

“Accept!”

Following which, Leylin felt that his brain was stuffed with a load full of information, similar to when he received his meditation technique when he first entered the academy.

A massive stream of information continuously entered his brain and was sorted by the A.I. Chip.

Note:

[1] Ouroboros is an ancient sign which shows the head of a serpent or a dragon eating its tail, forming a circle.

Chapter 118: Destroying The Remnants

“The book is a copy of high-grade meditation technique. It is only for warlocks who carries the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent...”

The beginning of the information already sent Leylin in ecstasy.

“The high-grade meditation technique that I have always dreamt of is finally in my hands now!”

Leylin only felt a surge of blood rush to his brain and almost could not resist screaming in excitement.

[Warning! Warning! Time left for the place to collapsing: 5 Minutes 01 Seconds! It has already reached the limit that the Host has set!] The A.I. Chip reminded Leylin once again.

“Damn!” Leylin started running immediately.

When he started to run out of the study, he glanced quickly at the collapsed corpse of Bosain.

“To have you buried inside the secret plane is the best method to conceal the murderer. And, since I did not directly kill him, the probability of any Detection Magic is very less”.

After walking away from the study room, he found himself inside the Dylan Gardens where there was every kind of flower blooming.

Leylin did not think any further and reached out to grab the few most precious flowers and placed it in his robes. He did not stop his footsteps and directly dashed out from the Dylan Gardens.

After running through the metal passage, Leylin once again returned to the cave where the corpse of the Black Horrall Snake lay.

“Something’s not right, there is something missing!” Leylin ran to where the black snake was. His right hand glowed with the defense of the Fallen Star Pendant and as he traced the opening of the wound he ripped open the stomach and pulled out a scarlet heart out from it.

As the handling of such ingredients was troublesome, Bosain and the

rest had decided to retrieve it only when they were prepared to leave.

“There is no more time!” Leylin looked at the timer which was counting down to zero soon and immediately chanted an ancient incantation.

“Starier Guderian!”

“This was the password recorded in the Book of Giant Serpent for leaving the secret plane. A pity that with the destruction of the secret plane, this time, there was no other chances to use it in the future.

After the chant, Leylin was enshrouded in a red lightning and immediately disappeared from the cave.

On the top of a cliff.

A few red flashes of lightning formed, taking the form of a spell formation.

A brown haired acolyte’s illusory image slowly turned into real substance among the lightning and landed on the cliff.

“I am finally out!”

Leylin looked at the void which was constantly emitting energy waves, his expression complicated.

This was the influence of a secret plane self-destructing in the main world. It was extremely weak and extremely difficult to discover.

However, Leylin was clear that the Dylan Gardens, and everything inside it was now wiped off from the face of this world.

“A pity! So many resources and precious herbs....”

Leylin looked down at the energy wave of the void which was slowly vanishing, and he felt a great pity about it.

After all, that was the secret plane of a Rank 4 Magus!

Just the various flowers and herbs in the Dylan Gardens could fetch the price of several millions of Magic Crystals. Moreover, there had been copious quantities of herbs in there.

With it, Leylin would not have to worry about his finances after turning

into an official Magus.

“Fortunately, it’s not like I don’t have any gains!” Leylin looked at the few stalks of herbs tightly gripped in his hands, his expression relaxing a little.

On his hands, there were several rare herbs, only that their appearance was not very beautiful at this moment.

As Leylin prioritised in escaping earlier, he merely grabbed a fistful of the most precious plants, so naturally there was some damage done to those herbs.

“There is one more – Book of Giant Serpent!”

Leylin touched the sturdy black book in front of him.

Although it was just something the Great Magus Serholm placed outside to conceal the high-grade meditation technique inside the oil painting, its price was still extremely precious.

On the Book of Giant Serpent, there were the travel notes of the Great Magus Serholm with the drawings of a few precious items, which could enhance Leylin’s knowledge.

Moreover, many experiments were also explicitly stated in detail, which allowed Leylin to benefit from it.

However, the most precious in the Book of Giant Serpent was the 12 Rank 1 Spell models and 3 Rank 2 Spell models! All these were items that the various guilds and magisterium in the South Coast tried to get their hands on. They were something that Magic Crystals could not buy.

Finally, the motive of Leylin’s expedition, this time, the high-grade meditation technique, was finally obtained.

This meant that Leylin’s path in the future might not be smoothly paved, but at least he had a direction to work towards to. He had more chances than other acolytes!

Any one item on this book, once leaked, will only result in one outcome for Leylin. That is to be listed as wanted by all the organisations in the

South Coast!

All official Magi, various academy chairmen, even the strongest Magus that Leylin had seen, the head of the Lighthouse of the Night, will do their utmost to catch him who was a mere acolyte.

Just thinking of that outcome, Leylin already felt a headache.

At the same time, he resolved to conceal everything he had gotten in this expedition.

“Since I have already decided!” Leylin’s eyes flashed viciously and looked at the few struggling prisoners behind him.

They were captured by Bosain, used as guinea pigs to test the mechanisms of the secret plane. Furthermore, Leylin even bound all of them later.

He did not know how long he stayed inside the secret plane. Only that from what Leylin saw, these few people were already on the verge of death. If he were to come out a little longer, it would just be a few more corpses that he would see.

“I originally wanted to use them to kill Bosain after defeating him, but from what I see now, the self-destruction of the secret plane is a better way to kill him!”

Acolytes who hailed from great families or were geniuses of an academy often had various detection spells placed on them. Once they were to die, the spells would be activated and imbued itself on the closest intelligent creature beside them and turned into a tracking spell. Hence, Leylin seldom attacked other acolytes. If there was a choice, he preferred to use scapegoats to finish his job.

Leylin muttered and walked towards the few prisoners.

Very soon, his face hardened, and he immediately grabbed a few prisoners and tossed them over the cliff.

Pa Pa!

Not long after, there was the slight yet heavy noise which travelled to

Leylin's ears.

“Not only that, the stone blades at the bottom must be destroyed, the corpses must also be gotten rid of with some bone dissolving powder.”

Leylin muttered and applied the floating spell on himself, floating down from the cliff like a feather.

When the moon was high in the sky, the blue constellations shone brightly. Only then did Leylin returned to the cliff, his robes filled with traces of grey powder.

The starlight which shone down was constantly absorbed by the Fallen Star Pendant on Leylin's chest, forming a small ball of light in front of him.

[Fallen Star Pendant recharging. Estimated time: 5 hours 21 Minutes!]
The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

Although the might of Magic Artifact were extremely strong and did not need any chanting to activate it, they required to be recharged. After the energy was fully consumed, the Magic Artifact was basically a useless item!

Previously in the secret plane, Leylin concealed his Fallen Star Pendant and let Bosain use their Magic Artifact many times to drain the energy in his Magic Artifact. Finally after engaging in a battle with him, he drained all of Bosain's Magic Artifact energy!

Whenever he thought of the Magic Artifact on Bosain's body which could take on the form of anything, the silvery and metallic “Silver Light” which could attack or defend, Leylin envied Bosain for it.

However, he did not retrieve it from Bosain's body. Instead, he let that Magic Artifact remain inside the secret plane.

Things that belonged to large families, if one were to say that there weren't additional protective measures on them, Leylin would be the first to doubt that statement!

Moreover, he had killed Bosain. This was the genius acolyte in Abyssal

Bone Forest Academy, and one of the successors of the three big families, the Lilytell Family.

Once this incident was discovered, he would naturally face the wrath and revenge of the Lilytell Family.

However, Bosain, fortunately, was killed due to the secret plane's self-destruction. The place where he died was also not in the main world but in a secret plane, which would mean many troubles for the Magi, who excelled in Divination or Prophecy.

"Only that it is still not enough! The methods of Divination Magi are not that simple!"

Leylin's face was extremely solemn. He sat cross-legged on the cliff and picked up several water chestnut grass, forming the shape of a little human figure.

Pu! When the human figure made of grass was tanned, Leylin took out a dagger and cut his arm.

A huge amount of blood downed down, covering the grass doll in red.

Leylin used the dagger to dab on his blood, drawing a strange rune on his forehead.

Very soon, an ancient yet mysterious incantation was chanted by Leylin.

The chant was a tongue-twister and had a metallic ring to it. With the sudden rise and fall in his pitch, the surrounding atmosphere also changed mysteriously.

After the chant, many dense black gaseous bodies were emitted from Leylin.

The gases grew more and more, finally turning into a translucent black shadow, its face similar to Leylin's countenance.

"Go!"

Leylin pointed at the grass doll and the black shadow immediately jumped into it.

The black shadow shrunk a dozen times, entering the grass doll entirely.

As for the grass doll, its face also changed, turning similar to what Leylin looked like.

“Alright now!” Leylin exhaled loudly, before pursing his lips to whistle.

“Gua Gua!” A black raven flew from the nearby forest, landing on Leylin’s shoulders.

“Bring it away! The further the better!” Leylin placed the grass doll on the talons of the black raven, before feeding the raven a Magic Crystal.

Hu!

The body of the raven doubled in size, and the wings grew to the span of two to three times. As it flapped its wings it brought a tiny whirlwind with it.

Seeing the raven flying further, Leylin heaved a sigh of relief.

This was a little trick he saw from an incomplete diary in the library, it was said to have an effect to mislead those Divination Magi spells.

Under the simulation of the A.I. Chip, he believed that there would be an effect to a certain extent.

Naturally Leylin used it, hoping for it to stall a little more time for him.

After killing Bosain, Leylin never hoped that he could cover it up completely.

The methods of Magi were extremely strange. Also, as the Lilytell Family was one of the three big families in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Leylin had no confidence of hiding from them at all.

Even with the most foolish method of tracing leads in the world, they would definitely pinpoint all the clues to him.

However, for the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm, Leylin had no regrets whatsoever in killing Bosain. Even if it were to repeat the scene, Leylin would still choose to do it again.

What he desired now, was only time!

The external conditions had already been met. To be able to retaliate the chase of the Lilytell Family, he had to advance into an official Magus!

This was the purpose of Leylin trying to stall for time.

Chapter 119: Warlock

“However, there is also good news!”

When Leylin thought about his future developments, he slowly relaxed his muscles.

“Bosain and the other two joined in halfway while travelling. According to Jayden, Bosain even hid it from his family and the academy. Which is to say, the Lilytell Family would only know that Bosain was dead, yet they did not have any idea where he had gone to or who were the people he had met. This is the best possible scenario!”

As for Jayden’s disappearance?

Leylin did not bother with it at all. First of all, Jayden was not killed by him. Even by using Lie Detecting Spells and the sorts, he was not afraid at all. Secondly, Jayden only had a Professor Dorotte behind him. His background was much smaller than that of the three big families. Just based on Leylin’s mentor, Professor Kroft, he could handle this problem.

Leylin gave the cliff one final look, before walking away and never turning back.

At the same time, inside an ancient, stately and eerie fortress.

From one of the rooms, a large roar was heard, “Bosain is dead! The parasite larva on him was not activated too!”

Extreme wrath was detected in this voice, and waves of his voice reverberated throughout the ancient castle.

In the air, there were even many energy waves seen with the physical eye. A rush of horrifying energy wave continuously radiated from the room.

Many menservants and maids on the corridors immediately knelt on the ground, their bodies quivering in fear.

“Call Kleiter here, if he is unable to find out the truth, I will punish and send him to confinement within the Blazing Mines for a hundred years!”

.....

The atmosphere turned gloomy, and the cold wind howled. Not long later, fine raindrops splattered on the ground, giving a damp and icy feeling.

However, Leylin was in a pretty good mood.

At this moment, he was inside a cave feeding a bonfire for warmth. He closed his eyes and thought of the high-grade meditation technique contents.

He viewed this high-grade meditation technique with utmost importance. His path in the future would be significantly determined here.

Moreover, the high-grade meditation technique also had requirements for the acolytes. There must be a certain standard before they could cultivate in it.

Leylin did not want to risk his life only to obtain something which he could not use.

After hastily going through the contents, doubt filled his heart. "Warlock? It's the same as Branded Swordsman, a branch of the ancient Magi huh?"

Leylin leaned on the warm granite wall, his mind continuously sorting out the information he gotten from the high-grade meditation technique today.

"Kemoyin's Pupil." This was the name of the high-grade meditation technique that Leylin inherited from the Great Magus Serholm.

Before the information of the meditation technique, there were several other notes which introduced the existences of acolytes in the ancient past who had advanced to be Warlocks!

These so-called Warlocks were a unique kind of Magi. Through devouring, copulation or some other methods, they would obtain the bloodline of powerful magic creatures or even the bloodline of creatures from another world. Moreover, they would continuously tap into the

power within.

As with Branded Swordsmen, Warlocks were also a sub-type of ancient Magi.

According to the introduction of the Great Magus Serholm, he was originally a Rank 4 Warlock! Moreover, he had unified the whole of the South Coast, leaving behind many undying legends.

Furthermore, according to the legends, Warlocks have a greater innate talent in spellcasting and they completely surpassed a regular Magus of the same rank.

However, if Warlocks were that strong, they would have long since controlled the South Coast and not have that many magician guilds around.

First of all, Warlocks are on the path of bloodlines. Along with the passing of time and the reproduction of seeds, the descendants of these Warlocks will often see a thinning of bloodline, losing the replenishing effect from the bloodline origins. Just this point alone caused the Warlocks to become few in numbers.

Furthermore, a large number of Warlocks had an extremely troublesome malady—Emotions! The Magus World was represented by reasoning. However, due to the effects of the bloodline, Warlocks often suffer from extreme emotional states and was likely to go to the extremity of any emotion.

Obviously, such a disposition was difficult for Warlocks to survive a long time in this Magus World with the law of the jungle.

However, the Great Magus Serholm came up with a method to curb such an ailment—Serenity Potion!

When a Warlock takes the Serenity Potion, they would calm their inner nerves and retain the reasoning trait of a Magus.

Furthermore, their strong willpower would also allow them to curb the emotional effects of the bloodline.

In the preface of the high-grade meditation technique, there were several types of methods to obtain bloodline, enough for Leylin to choose from.

Seeing this, Leylin had already decided to choose the path of bloodlines and become a Warlock.

Very soon, Leylin frowned again.

“3 levels! Why does the whole of the high-grade meditation technique only have three levels? There are obvious missing parts at the back!”

According to what Leylin gathered, high-grade meditation technique has the effect of raising the levels of Magi.

Which is to say, once a Magus had completed the meditation technique of that rank, their level will rise automatically. There is no need of complementing with a large amount of resources to breakthrough, nor the use of constructing spell models.

This was because high-grade meditation techniques would naturally form a compatible innate spell and inscribe them constantly with the meditation in the Magus sea of consciousness.

However, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent only had three levels. Which is to say, even if Leylin had finished the cultivation for it, he would advance to the maximum of a Rank 3 Warlock, a little more powerful than a Rank 3 Magus.

It was pretty good as in the South Coast, Rank 3 Magus were extremely powerful existences, like the head of the Lighthouse of the Night who had that cultivation!

However, Leylin was somewhat displeased; he wished to cultivate to the realm of a Rank 9 Magus!

After which, Leylin somewhat scorned himself.

“Even Lord Great Magus Serholm was only a Rank 4 Warlock. The distance to Rank 9 is even further than here to the Milky Way! I should not ask for too much. After all, this can guarantee my path until a Rank 3

Warlock. If it were left to me to break through on my own, I wouldn't even have the confidence to become an official Magus....”

“Moreover, the Great Magus Serholm was a Rank 4 Warlock. Which is to say, the Kemoyin's Pupil has a latter portion, only that it requires for me to search more about it...”

Leylin resumed his normal mentality and looked at the latter portion of the information. As expected, there were a few vague clues which pointed to the Central Continent.

Leylin had never even heard of the Central Continent before. However, in the Book of Giant Serpent, there were descriptions of it. It seemed to be a haven for official Magus. Not only was the area expanse, but there were also an abundant amount of resources.

Only that to enter the Central Continent from the South Coast, it required a lot of trekking over dangerous domains. If one was not an official Magus, he would definitely die!

Leylin memorised the information and decided that he had to visit there in the future to search for leads on the Kemoyin's Pupil in the future.

At the end of the meditation technique, there was a profound sentence:

“All those who walk on the path of bloodlines will eventually be shackled by the very bloodline itself...”

Somehow, not knowing why, Leylin felt that he heard a distant sigh, but it might have been a hallucination.

However, these words still cast an ominous cloud over his head.

Leylin remained silent, blue light flashing in his eyes, before resuming his original state very soon.

“It seems that there is some flaw to becoming a Warlock! However, this is a problem I'd have to face after a Rank 3 Warlock! I am just a lowly acolyte right now with not even much confidence to advance to an official Magus...”

“Even at the very end, if the path of a Warlock does not let me advance

further, I can seek for other methods! At that time, I have at least the strength of an official Magus!”

“As for now, with the strength of an acolyte, there is no chance that I can obtain another piece of high-grade meditation technique...”

Various thoughts flashed in his brain and Leylin’s eyes gradually gleamed in resolve.

“To cultivate in the Kemoyin’s Pupil, one must first have the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent or a subspecies of it!”

Leylin began to ponder over the problems of his path.

“Giant Kemoyin Serpent! It’s a type of ancient creature. There are records of it in the A.I. Chip. As for its subspecies, I have seen two of it before, The Huge Mankestre Snake and the Black Horrall Snake!”

From the Kemoyin’s Pupil that the Great Magus Serholm had cultivated in, it seemed that he was a Warlock who had the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent!

As he nurtured various snake species, he preferred to use defense or ambush mechanisms with snakes, so it was completely understandable.

Leylin pondered and withdrew many times from his sack.

A dozen blood coloured rocks and a frozen heart!

These blood rocks were the essence of all the blood from the Black Horrall Snake collected by Leylin. As for its heart, when Leylin was escaping from the Dylan Gardens, he had already harvested the precious ingredient from the corpse of the Black Horrall Snake.

“According to the records of the high-grade meditation technique, I can use this essence and obtain the Black Horrall Snake’s bloodline...”

An adult Black Horrall Snake was a creature that could rival the existence of a Rank 3 Magus, so it fulfilled Leylin’s needs completely.

Perhaps, the Great Magus Serholm kept the Black Horrall Snake in the cave to allow his inheritor to use its bloodline.

However, naturally Leylin's ambition was not only there.

“Although the Black Horrall Snake is not bad, it only has a trace of the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Perhaps, I can purify the Black Horrall Snake bloodline and obtain the true ancient bloodline!”

Leylin's eyes spewed fire from it.

Since Warlocks had to tap constantly into the power of the bloodlines, then it was better to transplant a stronger bloodline right from the start.

Leylin only gave it a slight thought, and his inner desires began to boil.

“A.I. Chip! Establish mission, calculate the chance of obtaining an ancient bloodline from the Black Horrall Snake's bloodline!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, beginning analysis.]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned, loyally carrying out its duties.

[Scanning blood essence obtained! Composition – Pure Essence: 78.8%, Nutrients: 11.3%, Highly active bacteria: 2.14%, useless impurities...]

A stream of information of the blood essence turned into a chart and appeared in front of Leylin.

Leylin who had the A.I. Chip had the natural advantage in this field!

Chapter 120: Purification

The auxiliary A.I. Chip from his past life had immense memory space and calculating abilities. Furthermore, for it to better aid the researchers, there was even a microscope that could see accurately up to the atomic level.

During his transmigration, it even connected with Leylin's soul, increasing many unfathomable changes.

Now it seems that in the aspect of purifying blood, Leylin had an enormous advantage with it.

After all, the purification of the bloodline was an extremely precise yet tedious process, and this method was the kind that posed the least problem to the A.I. Chip.

"No wonder the Great Magus Serholm had laid the test of horrifying calculation and analysis ability as his final test to obtain the high-grade meditation technique. To Warlocks with a strong ability for calculations, they can research on the bloodlines and unearth the power within!"

Leylin was somewhat enlightened and thought of the few breeding labs that the Great Magus Serholm had had.

"No matter if it was the lab in Extreme Night City or Dylan Gardens, the Great Magus Serholm had always carried out experiments on blending and modulation. Only that it's unclear if he succeeded in the end..."

.....

A few days later, under the ominous dark clouds looming over the sky, Leylin once again returned to the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

"Really..." Leylin looked at the graveyard and academy constructions that were almost repaired fully as he smiled wryly.

Bosain, whom he had killed, was a member of the Lilytell Family, thus boasting a strong influence within the academy.

Although right now it was almost impossible for them to know that it

was Leylin who killed Bosain, there was a certain chance of risk.

If possible, Leylin would never want to return to the academy. However, he grasped time to come back was because he had important things to do.

“There is no choice, who asked the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy to have the best resources and experiment labs. I have to hurry and purify the ancient bloodline and gather the ingredients for the Serenity Potion, so I have to come back this time...”

Leylin was confident of his deception. Adding on to the fact that Bosain died inside the secret plane, due to the separation effect caused by the spell formation, concrete information on his death would have been very difficult for the people in the main world to receipt.

Using the most boorish method of tracing in the physical world required a lot of time.

Also, Bosain and the others sneaked out, so even their families did not know where they were headed to.

Moreover, Leylin had been rushing back along the way. It was to gather all his resources, complete the experiment and leave before the Lilytell Family could react.

“Although there are some risks, according to my calculations and the simulation from the A.I. Chip, I can escape before the Lilytell Family reacts!”

After inspecting Leylin’s pass at the entrance, the Granite Ape that Leylin saw before very soon allowed him to enter the academy that was underground.

After which, Leylin did not even return to his dorm and immediately went to the counter at the resource point, exchanging a large number of his Magic Crystals for resources.

To brew the Serenity Potion and complete the experiment on bloodlines, the items required were a monstrous amount.

Furthermore, many ingredients and items were extremely precious, so

Abyssal Bone Forest Academy only would have them.

What made Leylin's heartbeat quicken was that under the current policies of the academy, he could purchase resources that were many times cheaper than the market price.

He had already offended a large Magus family and had no place to hide. He could only continuously raise his strength to solve this problem.

"According to the A.I. Chip, the requirement for a Level 3 Acolyte to advance and become a Rank 1 Magus, is 15 Spiritual Force!"

Leylin thought as he commanded, "Inspect my current status!"

[Mission establishing! Host data gathering in progress!] The A.I. Chip's loyal voice intoned.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.4, Spiritual Force: 16.1, Magic Power: 16 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

Ever since Leylin had used the Blood Vengeance Potion to raise his Spiritual Force to the limits, no matter how much he meditated, he could not increase it one bit.

It seems like the elementary meditation technique that he received from the academy back then was now obsolete.

In fact, many Magus were in such a situation. Without the high-grade meditation technique, every improvement or advancement required a huge amount of precious resources. Moreover due to the tolerance of the physical body, the demand on its strength was even higher the next time round. Hence, this formed a vicious cycle.

Adding on to the fact that they did not choose their innate spell model correctly, and the spell model needed for the next advancement was also difficult to find, it was such a huge factor that it halted the footsteps of many official Magi.

Hence, in the whole South Coast, newly advanced Rank 1 Magus were the most common. As for Rank 2 Magus like Siley, they were of the upper

hierarchy, as with other chairmen of large organisations and academies. As for a Rank 3 Magus, they stood at the peak like a fearsome existence!

However, after obtaining the high-grade meditation technique, Leylin could absolutely catch up to them!

“My Spiritual Force has already met the required value. What’s next is to change the meditation technique and purify the ancient bloodline and try to advance into a Rank 1 Warlock!”

A fiery passion blazed in Leylin’s eyes as he hurried his pace.

After the settlement of the resources, Leylin did not visit Kroft, but only left a message to say that he would enter a very important experiment and required to be in seclusion for cultivation.

After which, he poured all his heart into the experiment lab in the academy.

“This set of apparatus was made with vulcanised glass and is the firmest!”

Leylin looked inside a large experiment lab, his hands touching a set of sulphur-coloured glass apparatus.

“There is also this! A machine that can generate negative energy 300 times faster!” Leylin turned around and looked at two large black coloured instruments on the table.

Beside the black instruments, there was an item that resembled a microscope. However, the multiplier effect could not match up to Leylin’s A.I. Chip.

Leylin had specifically rented this experiment lab. Normally it was only available for official Magi, but he was a potential Magus in the academy, so he had gained the privilege to rent the experiment lab for set period.

The experiment labs that Magi used were naturally better than acolytes’; there were, even more, guarantees in the safeguarding of privacy.

After all, the official Magi were professors that formed the foundation of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Even if it was Chairman Siley, he could

not intrude on the privacy of these professors. Those who were able to become a Magus often had their secrets and trump card. Any form of detection or prying into them was considered as an outright provocation. Even Chairman Siley could not resist against the power of all the professors if they were to unite forces!

Of course, under the consideration of being cautious, Leylin let the A.I. Chip scan this area several times. He also used many detection spells, and even some that fended against the outside world.

“Let us begin!”

Leylin nodded his head and took out a small box from his robes. After opening it, a dozen blood red rocks lay there, emitting a mystical energy wave constantly. These waves were then absorbed by the dispel formation that Leylin set up, not leaking one bit of it at all.

“I haven’t conducted such an intricate experiment for a long time, I hope my skills aren’t rusty!”

Leylin’s expression was extremely solemn as he picked up a purple potion...

Afterwards, Leylin spent his day inside the lab. Even the daily nourishment needs intake was relied on potions.

Under the stupendous microscopic ability of the A.I. Chip and consultation from the Book of Giant Serpent and Kemoyin’s pupil, the progress of bloodline purification was rather smooth.

However, one day Leylin was compelled to leave the lab.

“What? Bicky has been held captive by her own family?”

Dark circles appeared on Leylin’s eyes, and there was a stubble under his lips. It seemed to be somewhat decadent.

However, a pair of eyes gleamed brightly, looking at the girl in front of him.

The girl had a head of blonde hair, her body contours delicate. Her lips were thin and had a layer of luscious red lipstick applied, adding a more

matured look to her appearance.

Leylin recognised this girl. She was called Hong, a simple one-syllabled name. It seemed to be the style of the hometown where she came from.

Moreover, she was Bicky's good friend and had seen Leylin during several encounters.

"Why?" Leylin very soon retracted his expression and a calm expression was formed.

However, under the mask of this serenity, it made Hong shudder slightly.

"It's said that Leylin is not only a genius in Potioneering, but even your cultivation in magic also has a high talent. You have advanced to a Level 3 Acolyte before twenty, obtaining many favourable impressions from professors..." Hong bit her lips, as envy and jealousy unconsciously filled her insides as she thought of the news she heard of Leylin.

However, this feeling was suppressed very quickly.

Hong combed her loose hair and smiled wryly, "Because she stole a precious Rainbow Potion from her family..."

"Rainbow Potion?! That was a rare potion that had vanished. It is known to greatly enhance the effects of Grine Water. The Rainbow Potion which could complement the advancement of an acolyte to an official Magus?"

Leylin tapped his fingers on the circle desk in rhythm, the scented tea in the cup showing ripples.

He had heard of Bicky's family before. They had a rather long standing history, their ancestors also had a period of glory, but they seemed to fall after that.

It was different with the Lilytell Family and other large families, Bicky's family was only a small one.

As for now, the elders were only of Level 3 Acolytes, upholding the Magic Artifact and treasures from their ancestors which could temporarily have the might of an official Magus as self-defense.

It can be seen that such a family did indeed have a hope in raising

another official Magus, to continue the glory of their family.

As for Bicky, as one of the heirs that had been fully nurtured by the family, not only had she betrayed her family, but she had also stolen the family's treasure. Even if she was killed on the spot, it was not a strange thing.

"Bicky is only a Level 2 Acolyte, did she steal it for Fayle then?"

Leylin thought of the crux of the matter and questioned immediately.

As expected, anger filled Hong's face. "It is for Fayle! Originally, Bicky planned to elope with him after the theft, but Fayle had been misleading her all along!"

Hong was fuming, apparently feeling unjust for her friend. "After obtaining the Rainbow Potion, Fayle immediately left her behind and joined the Redbud Flower Family!"

Chapter 121: Legends

The Redbud Flower Family was one of the three big families behind Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the same as the Lilytell Family.

This was a family that had official Magi among every generation and could activate the battle prowess of those Magi in times of war. It was completely on a different level than Bicky's falling family.

With the protection of the Redbud Flower Family, Bicky's family could only grit their teeth in defeat as they would never be able to recover the Rainbow Potion.

"As for Bicky, she was captured by the experts in her family. It's said that she would very soon be put on trial and charged guilty for betraying the family.

Hong's eyes turned red, her tears almost falling.

"Hu!" Leylin exhaled a long breath.

Bicky had a crush on Fayle, he knew it since the first day in the academy. Moreover, he also knew that Fayle did not have much moral values.

When Bicky told Leylin that Fayle had already accepted her to be his girlfriend, Leylin felt that there was a conspiracy behind it, yet he had no way of reminding her.

Fayle, who had gathered enough contribution points in the secret plane, had exchanged it for the Grine Water. Adding on to the Rainbow Potion, his chances of advancement to a Rank 1 Magus were extremely high!

As for Bicky's family, it was akin to losing one official Magus. Moreover, they had to suffer even the loss of Bicky, who was an acolyte.

"A rather good scheme. A pity that his character had somewhat fallen to the lowest. If I see him next time, I'll just kill him!"

Leylin thought indifferently.

Bicky was his good friend. Moreover they had a one night stand, so he had to try to rescue her. Moreover, as long as it was within his capabilities,

he would help her seek revenge.

However in Leylin's heart, there wasn't any feeling of humiliation or disgrace that Bicky had given him.

Looking at it in detail, Bicky was Fayle's girlfriend both in name and in reality. In fact, it was Leylin who did the dishonorable thing and let Fayle wear a green hat [1], so naturally he did not have to feel humiliated or anything of the sorts.

However, the crucial point now was to save Bicky.

Professor Kroft was an excellent candidate to save her, but Leylin very soon dismissed that thought.

The relationship between the professors and acolytes in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was only based on mutual benefits. The acolytes would fork out Magic Crystals and services. In return, the professors would give them knowledge.

If it were Jayden and Torash, highly talented individuals who had gained their mentor's nurture, it was still alright. However, Bicky who had a rather average aptitude only had a simple relationship with her mentor.

It was as if after she had graduated, the relationship between her and her mentor would wane unless she advanced into an official Magus.

Moreover, Kroft was the professor of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. When entering the academy, he had already signed a contract not to interfere with the internal matters of other families.

As for Bicky's family, it was one of the many families under the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's banner.

Hence, Kroft could not take action as he would dishonor the agreement.

After drinking the somewhat cooled down tea on the circular desk, he slowly spoke under the anticipatory gaze of Hong.

"Due to an important experiment I am unable to leave, but I will write a letter. Please revert it to the elder behind Bicky's family. "

The experiment of purifying the bloodline had just entered its most

important juncture.

If not for Hong telling him the news of Bicky, Leylin might not even have taken the time away from it.

However, he could not leave the lab for too long either.

Compared to Bicky, Leylin's impending doom was even greater. He had to advance into a Rank 1 Warlock in the shortest possible amount of time, to better deal with the threat from the Lilytell Family.

Furthermore, the Lilytell Family could trace it back to him any moment. Along with the passing of time, this possibility can only grow bigger. He had to purify the blood before the Lilytell Family discovered anything, and find a safe place outside the academy to complete his most important advancement!

This matter concerned his life and death! Comparing the weight of this matter, Bicky's issue could be put aside first.

Leylin reasoned that he was a genius acolyte in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy that had a huge chance of advancing into an official Magus.

As for Bicky's family head, he was only a Level 3 Acolyte. In the Magus World, the prerequisite of association was to have similar levels of strength! Hence, towards Leylin's words, the other party would definitely give it some consideration.

After hearing Leylin's words, Hong's eyes dimmed. She straightened her body and almost left the seat immediately.

It seems that she thought that Leylin only wanted to gloss over this matter on a superficial level.

As a matter of fact, that was the most common practice of acolytes. Hong was already mentally prepared, but she still felt a little frustrated.

"On the letter, I will earnestly request for the head not to proceed with the trial and also to leave Bicky's source of Spiritual Force intact, not causing harm to it.

The source of Spiritual Force was the most basic foundation of

magicians which was the sea of consciousness and the Spiritual Force.

Once this source was to be wasted, the magician would be crippled. This was often the methods of families executed on those members who had betrayed them.

“And in return! I promise to compensate for the missing Rainbow Potion!” Leylin’s final words made Hong’s eyes gleamed immediately.

“Thank you! I am really so thankful...” Hong was too excited that her speech turned incoherent.

If it was just a simple request, the other party might not give Leylin any face at all, as they were both Level 3 Acolyte and the head were borne from a Magus family.

However, with the promise of compensation, it was a different case.

After all, even if they killed Bicky now, there were no benefits to the family at all. If they were only to keep her in captive, there was even the chance of receiving compensation for it!

All logical magicians would definitely know what to choose between the two.

“Bicky and I have the same mentor, so it’s something I should do!”

Leylin smiled and got up.

After his experiment, he would immediately try to advance. Once he succeeds and becomes an official Magus, his authority would immediately change.

At that time, if he tries to rescue Bicky, it would be less troublesome.

To tell the truth, the price of a Rainbow Potion could be easily compensated with what Leylin had now. Not to mention the peddling of potions, just based on the few precious herbs he grabbed in Dylan Gardens, each and every one of time had a price that was several times of the Rainbow Potion.

However if he were to just take the money and redeem her, he would easily be labelled as an idiot who had more money than sense. Leylin

decided that there was no purpose in him being talked of as a fool.

Under the combination of logic and benefit, he chose the way that would be least consuming for him.

“I have sought out many a person, but only you, Leylin, helped me. Bicky would definitely be happy to have a friend like you!” Looking on, Hong’s relationship with Bicky seemed rather good.

“If there are no other matters, then pardon me for taking my leave first!”

Leylin smiled like a gentleman, leaving his seat elegantly.

Bicky’s matter was only a small surprise to Leylin. After leaving the lab to settle this issue, Leylin once again buried his head in the experiments.

Three days later, Leylin looked at a vulcanised crystal test-tube with an engrossed expression.

Inside the test-tube, a layer of purple, red fluid had already occupied more than half the space within. Moreover, there was effervescence in it, continuously emitting tiny bubbles, as if having its life.

“This is from all the essence from the Black Horrall Snake, adding on to the special blood purification apparatus using the heart as a primer. After the microscopic abilities of the A.I. Chip coupled with magic spells to continuously purify it, I have finally obtained half a test-tube of this ancient bloodline!”

A dreamy expression could be seen on Leylin’s eyes as he muttered.

Just by holding onto the test-tube, Leylin felt a tremendous force continuously emitting from the test-tube, radiating out to its surroundings.

“It is indeed the bloodline of the ancient creature—Giant Kemoyin Serpent!”

Leylin asked the A.I. Chip, “How is the sorting of information concerning the Giant Kemoyin Serpent?”

These formidable creatures of ancient times would only be briefly mentioned in very few documents and tales of bards. There were many misconceptions about them, so what Leylin had the A.I. Chip do was to

sort out the real content of the data on the Giant Kemoyin Serpent.

After all, this was his only choice!

As for other bloodlines of other snake species, how could it be gotten that easily? Any creature with a trace of ancient bloodline could command a frightening price. Moreover, Leylin was not an official Magus yet, so many channels could not be used.

[Beep! After 3465 comparisons, omitting 139 false information, 45 repeated information, the main content has been sorted.] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

[Giant Kemoyin Serpent: Ancient creature, reaching the length of 5000 metres in an adult phase. It is known to have a powerful body and mysterious spellcasting abilities. In the adult phase it can go against Rank 4 Magus and is the destroyer of many cities in legends. Main elemental properties: Darkness, with secondary element of Fire! In the legends, the Mother of Ten Thousand Snakes had failed to gain control of the Shadow World, hence bringing her children to the Purgatory World. From then on, her descendants all has the element of Fire.]

[Sources of origin: Ancient Creatures Illustration Handbook, The Travels of Grey, Diary of the Great Magus Serholm, The Book of Giant Serpent....]

"Darkness Element and Fire Element?" Ecstasy filled Leylin's face.

Although after transplanting the bloodline, the Warlocks would naturally add on the elements of the ancient creature, it was definitely the best to have their innate affinity to be compatible with the ancient creature.

Even after changing bloodlines, the original qualities of the magician's body was extremely important. It was decided from the start of birth and was extremely difficult to change in the future.

"A.I. Chip, bring out my elemental affinity chart!"

In front of Leylin, a projected image appeared.

The longest bar was dark coloured, representing the main elemental

affinity that Leylin had: Darkness.

Afterwards, it was followed by a fiery red bar half the size of the Darkness Element. This was Leylin's secondary elemental affinity, Fire.

At the back, there was a green bar and few other colours, representing the affinity of other elements.

However, these bars were much shorter than Fire by a dozen times. If Leylin chose to cultivate mainly with those elemental energy particles, then he might not even be a Level 2 Acolyte by now.

Which is to say, Leylin's affinity in the Darkness Element was highest followed by the Fire Element. The others could be treated as negligible.

"The properties of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent is actually compatible with my affinity. According to the introduction of the Kemoyin's Pupil, under these circumstances, it can have a multiplier effect on the magician's affinity, which is also the best choice!"

Leylin could not mask the overjoyed expression he had on his face.

Note: [1] Wearing a green hat means to be cuckolded.

Chapter 122: Attempt To Breakthrough

Leylin immediately left the academy on the second day.

He had managed to purify the ancient bloodline after using the facilities in the academy. Even the ingredients for the Serenity Potion were mostly gathered, so Leylin could not think of any other reason for him to stay.

Moreover, with the passing of time, the probability of the Lilytell Family uncovering the truth would only grow bigger. Leylin had no means at all to resist them within the academy.

He also had another level of consideration. What he was about to advance to was a subtype of the ancient Magi–Bloodline Warlock!

This was definitely differently from other official Magi. During the advancement, it was possible to have unique energy waves that were radiated. If chairman Siley or a magician at that level were to find out, his ending would not be any good.

For safety reasons, it was better to advance outside.

Before leaving, Leylin carefully cleansed all traces of his experiments inside the experiment lab. No matter how hard others might try to inspect, they would not be able to know what he had been doing inside the lab.

After giving one last look at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Leylin left.

He had a premonition that after leaving this time, it might take a very long time before he returned here again.

After thinking of the future happenings in the school, it would definitely be very intriguing! Leylin grinned as he urged his handsome steed to leave the Abyssal Forest.

Grey Stone City was a city that was relatively close to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and there weren't many inhabitants there. Moreover, there weren't any magicians staying here.

Ever since Leylin had left Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, he had been

pressing on continuously until he got here, even buying a two-storeyed flat in the heart of the city.

Around the apartment, there was a circle of greenery. Even though it was the heart of the city, there was a feeling of serenity.

On the side of the greenery were a row of small shops. Occasionally, there were mercenaries with steel blades walking together with women who wore extremely revealing clothes.

Leylin looked on for a while, before closing the windows.

This villa was the location that he had chosen to advance to a Rank 1 Warlock. It was also protected with a defense spell formation, so the average person would definitely not be able to enter.

Furthermore, there were a huge number of regular humans residing within the surroundings of the villa. As long as they did not meet any insane Dark Magi, their safety in the area was considered rather well.

Leylin did not unreasonably hope that by taking all these people around him as hostages, the other party would let him go. However, as long as they were somewhat apprehensive to cast a large area of effect spell, it would be an extremely great thing for him.

Sua! Leylin shut the windowsill.

The thick sackcloth blocked the sunlight from entering the room, and there was a faint layer of scarlet light appearing in the middle of the room.

The entire second storey of the villa was already under Leylin's control by this point. Moreover, there was a layer of a mysterious spell formation inscribed on the floor.

These runes were writhing as if they were made of little snakes, as they continuously headed towards the scarlet red light.

The light crisscrossed, forming a spell formation.

As for the centre of the formation, there was a pure black stone platform. Many scratches were cut into it with a small knife, taking the appearance of a very strange picture.

“The bloodline transfer formation is finally complete!”

Leylin massaged his temples, and a blue glow could be seen in his eyes.
“A.I. Chip! Scan my stats! Bring out my current condition!”

[Beep! Gathering Host data!]

Very soon, the A.I. Chip brought out Leylin’s stats. [Beep! Leylin Farlier. Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.4, Spiritual Force: 15.5, Magic Power: 15 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: In the middle of cultivating in Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique, Spiritual Force in purification!]

Back at the academy, after using the A.I. Chip to analyse the Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique completely, Leylin had begun to adjust his own meditation technique and practice the high-grade meditation technique.

The Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique that he had obtained had a total of three levels. With each increase in level, the technique would automatically advance the Warlock’s rank.

Previously, Leylin did not have any sort of snake type bloodline, so he could not even cultivate fully in the first level.

However, the high-grade meditation technique was indeed something good that had been previously concealed by the various organisations. After cultivating a good part of the first level and converting it into a meditation technique, Leylin realised that his Spiritual Force had undergone a purification process.

Many impurities within his Spiritual Force, which had been boosted in the past by potions, were now expelled during the process of meditation.

Leylin looked at his Spiritual Force stats. Due to removing the previous impurities, his Spiritual Force had decreased by 0.6, but it was all worth it.

As an acolyte, it was the foundation on the path towards being a Magus. The more solid one’s foundation was, the further one could walk down the path of a Magus in future.

Leylin had previously sought a rapid way and consumed potions in vast

quantities. This had left many of the residues of those potions accumulated in his body. Even his Spiritual Force was affected, becoming somewhat heterogeneous.

If such a situation were to occur constantly, one day, his path in advancing would become completely blocked.

As for now, under the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique's influence, his Spiritual Force was continuously being purified, heading towards a better development.

However, no matter how hard he tried, without the ancient bloodline, he would never be able to cultivate fully in the first level and advance to a Rank 1 Warlock!

"The requirement for an acolyte to be able to advance is a Spiritual Force of 15. The requirements for Warlocks and official Magi are almost the same, with only the additional requirement of a bloodline!

Leylin inspected the spell formation again.

"A.I. Chip! Scan and inspect the bloodline transfer spell formation again!"

Following his command, a strong glow of blue light appeared in Leylin's eyes as it scanned the formation.

This concerned Leylin's future, so he had to be particularly cautious.

Leylin had confirmed that everything was in order and that he had not missed anything, but did not, however, begin to rush through the bottleneck.

First, he sealed off the entire second storey, walked towards a restaurant outside, and ordered a lavish meal filled with delicacies.

Afterwards, Leylin wore commoners' clothes, and walked several times around Grey Stone City, looking at the motions of the regular humans as they worked, rested, and played, feeling their joy and sorrows.

Finally, Leylin returned to the villa and sat cross-legged on the bed, yet did not begin to meditate.

He recalled his memories about his previous life, the experience of transmigrating to the Magus World, the life he had in the carriage party, entering the academy, and his various expeditions.

The appearances of George, Kaliweir, Merlin, Kroft, and Bicky all surfaced in Leylin's mind.

Several hours later, Leylin's recollections of his memories scattered. What took its place was only calmness and indifference.

With the serenity of his heart, for the first time, Leylin did not meditate, but immediately fell asleep.

Only when the sun rose on the second day did Leylin get up, feeling refreshed, as if every cell in his body was filled with energy.

After activating all of the defense mechanisms, Leylin wore a loose white robe and went towards the second storey.

After giving the formation and potions one final check, a resolved expression appeared within Leylin's eyes.

"Let us begin!"

Pa! The buttons on the white robes came undone as it slid to the floor.

Leylin was stark naked as he walked towards the centre of the scarlet formation, sitting down on the black stone platform.

The black stone platform was made of bright black stones. A feeling of chilliness emanated through Leylin's skin, giving him goosebumps.

Leylin picked up a black dagger, the tip of the blade giving off a sharp coldness to it.

Leylin's expression turned vicious as he cut himself on his body.

Pu! Blood gushed out.

His expression was unchanging, and the hand that held the dagger did not quiver. In a mysterious sequence, the black dagger began to cut all over his body.

Every time the black dagger drew across Leylin's body, it would leave a

bloody wound from where blood continuously dripped.

At the very end, from his stomach to his forehead, there was a mystical triangular shaped rune on Leylin's body.

The blood that poured forth continuously from his skin looked extremely eerie and mysterious.

Di Da! Di Da!

The blood that flowed down from his body was collected by the grooves on the black stone platform, beginning to converge while following the grooves, and flowed towards the formation below the platform.

Bang!

Under the influence of the blood, the scarlet spell formation radiated a dozen times brighter.

The powerful flash of light brought forth a strong energy wave, which continuously radiated to the four walls of the villa.

At this moment, on the four walls of the villa, magical blue runes began to absorb the energy waves that leaked from the spell formation.

The scarlet coloured turned brighter and brighter, before finally engulfing the entire room.

In this blood red world, a layer of black smoke suddenly appeared, continuously changing shape in midair.

“Abiding by the ancient contract, my strength will now be that of the bloodline!

After seeing the black shadow, Leylin moved his lips and chanted in the Byron language.

Weng Weng!

After Leylin had chanted the incantation, the thick black smoke attached itself to Leylin's body, and the triangular shaped wounds began to gleam in a grim black light.

Leylin shivered as an extremely strange iciness began to charge to his

nerves.

After it had frozen to the extremes, a burning sensation seemed to set all of the cells on his body ablaze.

[Warning! Warning! Mysterious energy discovered infiltrating and beginning to consume copious amounts of the Host's lifeforce. Use the Host's own magic power to dispel?]

A row of words in red appeared.

"Deny!" Leylin gritted his teeth.

Along with the continuous burning of his body, he could distinctly feel that his Spiritual Force was increasing at a crazy rate.

It was constantly drawing nearer to the boundary of an official Magus.

However, if he were to use his lifeforce for that, it might have been very likely that before he reached the bottleneck of an official Magus, he would have first burned to a shrivelled corpse!

"It's now!"

Leylin picked up the vulcanised crystal test tube containing the Kemoyin bloodline and poured the purple-red blood on his wounds.

Hua La La!

The purple-red blood landed on Leylin's body. It began to wiggle, as if having its own life, and turned into an innumerable amount of little snakes that drilled through Leylin's wounds.

"Arghhh!" Leylin's eyes were popping out as the muscles on his face contorted.

An extremely frightening agony constantly grated on his nerves, even turning his vision blurry.

At that moment where he lost consciousness, Leylin only knew to follow the method of the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique, as he began to attempt to break through to a Warlock.

Chapter 123: Rank 1 Warlock

After Leylin had fainted, the red light in the second storey of the villa did not disappear, but gradually became more intense.

Time passed, and very soon, it was the morning of the second day.

The scarlet light grew stronger, and even the blue runes on the wall produced creaking noises as if they were unable to endure any longer.

Ping Pang! With sounds like the shattering of glass, the blue runes were finally dispersed and the red light shone through the walls and onto the villa beside it.

“Look quickly! What’s that?”

The unusual condition of the villa was finally found out by the passersby. A bald man who looked like a merchant began to point at Leylin’s villa as he shouted.

Following the direction to where he pointed, one could see that the second storey of the villa was currently radiating scarlet rays of light.

The red light was so dazzling that even the sun could not hide its presence.

With the continuous emission of rays of light, many regular humans around Leylin’s villa mysteriously fainted.

Peng! The bald merchant who had pointed at Leylin’s villa now had a frightened expression on his face as if seeing some natural nemesis. Both of his hands gripped his chest where his heart was, his eyes turning white as he fell onto the ground.

With the continuous expansion of the light rays, the number of passersby who fell to the ground increased, eventually extending to the whole street.

The citizens screamed and cried out in fright. A horde of them squeezed and jostled out of the city as if there was some scary demon behind them.

.....

Leylin had a very long dream.

In his dream, he was an incredibly tiny snake that constantly hid and snuck around, learning the methods of hunting prey.

The surroundings were up in flames. What surrounded him were simply lava and black boiling stones. The sight ahead was also a fiery-red.

As for him, he gradually grew up, going from sneaking around to avoid enemies, to being a natural predator at the top of the food chain.

No matter how many ferocious or horrifying creatures there were out there, they could only accept death in front of him while he swallowed them.

Leylin constantly changed his territory. One day, he arrived at another location.

That place was filled with the same species as him. Deep in his heart, there was a feeling of longing, which made him press on and climb deeper in.

As he went deeper in, Leylin could feel that the aura of the stronger members of his species increased. Just the aura radiating off of some of them was enough to leave Leylin with a feeling of suffocation.

Moreover, the surrounding flames and sulphur rapidly disappeared. What took its place was pitch-black darkness.

This darkness had countless shadows, yet it gave him a sense of security as if he was returning to his parent's body.

In the centre of the darkness, he could finally see.

What he saw was a giant ball of snakes, which seemed to cover the sky's horizon. It seemed to be a planet in the universe, eternal yet mighty. Every giant snake in the ball had strength surpassing his imagination.

"Hissssss!"

Leylin flicked his tongue out, letting off a hiss that was only produced by snakes.

The giant ball of snakes opened, revealing the figure of a black haired woman.

This black haired woman had an exceptionally charming feature. Her eyes had vertical slits for pupils and looked as if they were made of a ceramic glaze that would let one see through to its bottom. She also had hair that writhed continuously, as if they were tiny snakes.

The hair, which seemed to look like snakes, also gave her another layer of mysterious allure.

“You have come!” The woman opened her mouth, her voice ringing within Leylin’s heart. The language spoken was extremely strange and Leylin hadn’t heard of it before, yet he still understood it.

Just as Leylin was about to speak out and ask a question, a flash of bright light appeared in his vision.

He reached out to shield from the light and realised that his hand was that of a human’s. Only then, he realised that he had woken up from his slumber.

“I recall it now; I’m Leylin, who was completing the ceremony of transferring a bloodline to break through a bottleneck.

The life in his dream, which had seemed to be the reality, appeared in Leylin’s mind. For a moment, it made him think that he wasn’t human.

It seemed as if his reality had had been obscured by a veil– nothing could be seen clearly.

Slowly, large amounts of memories surfaced in his mind.

“The villa has been destroyed?” Leylin looked at the construction which had collapsed, and the sunlight, which bore through the holes in the ceiling, finally noticing the difference.

With Leylin at the centre, the surroundings were in a mess. Apart from him, there were no other living organisms.

“It seems like the energy absorption spell has failed and copious amounts of radiation leaked out...”

Leylin stroked his chin, suddenly thinking of something. “Warlock?! What happened to my advancement?”

At this moment, he was stark naked, but Leylin could feel an intensifying strength under his skin. Moreover, his Spiritual Force had significantly increased from before.

Leylin, somewhat unsettled, delved into the sea of his consciousness.

At this moment, his sea of consciousness was filled with a scarlet light, turning the space into a patch of redness.

At the centremost was a spell formation that had an octagonal crystal, floating quietly in the space.

The power that he felt from inside to outside continuously emanated throughout his whole body.

After he sensed the innate spell inside the crystal, Leylin grinned as he knew he had successfully advanced into an official Magus!

“A.I. chip, bring out the previous monitor record!”

[Detected traces of suitable composition for Host’s absorption!
Determined to be the blood essence of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent!
Beginning absorption]

[Blood essence burning! Host Spiritual Force increases significantly!]

.....

[Successful completion of the first level of the Kemoyin’s Pupil! Host advances into a Rank 1 Warlock! Various stats have been greatly boosted!]

[New scanning of Host’s data...]

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 27.9, Magic Power: 27 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

The A.I. Chip duly reflected the data in front of Leylin.

“There is actually such a great increase, no wonder I feel different. Even my physical figure has been enhanced and my strength has increased!”

Leylin clenched his fist and punched, emitting a shrill air explosion in the air.

“Right now my body is not inferior to that of any powerful creatures!”

Leylin looked at his chest. The appearance did not change much, only that his skin looked even glossier. His abs were well defined, yet not too protruding, maintaining a fine balance.

“However, such a huge disturbance will definitely alert nearby magicians. It’s better to leave earlier!”

Leylin casually picked up a black robe in the mess and put it on. Seeing the mess, he smiled wryly.

About the advancement to an official Magus, the A.I. Chip had no better research materials. Although Leylin did his best to lay the energy absorption spell formation, it still shattered under the sheer amount of energy emitted.

As for official Magus, even if they restrained their radiation, regular humans would not be able to withstand it.

How would Leylin be able to restrain himself during the advancement? Hence, it resulted in such a scene.

After figuring out the details, Leylin shook his head and kept a few important items from the rubble before placing them all into a knapsack.

Bang!

Leylin exerted strength and made a deep impression on the ground. His body then turned into a dark flash and left the area with a speed several times faster than before.

Some time later, a cawing of a bird was heard.

A snow white giant bird landed, with two official Magi on its back. What they wore were the clothes from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

“We’re here, the place where we sensed the energy waves!”

A female Magus touched the rubble on the floor and shut her eyes to

sense for something.

“I sense a tremendous Spiritual Force and also a blood-reeking aura. The feeling that it gives me slightly deviates from an official Magus...”

“This is very normal!”

A cloaked male came together with the female Magus. Under the cloak was the voice of a male.

“Choosing to advance here would only mean that it’s a wandering magician! Furthermore, they have obtained the inheritance from a remnant!”

The cloaked man grudgingly shrugged his shoulders. “There are many remnants in the South Coast, who knows what period the inheritance that the magician obtained came from. He seemed to have inherited some sort of ancient cultivation path, so his aura having deviations from the norm is not out of the ordinary. However, the energy waves have obviously reached the might of a Rank 1 Magus, so this matter should be treated seriously....”

After hearing the words of her counterpart, the woman’s face turned solemn.

In the South Coast, various guilds and magisterium had mostly controlled the advancement of acolytes to protect their unique positions.

However, in such a vast domain, there were always many of these lucky wandering acolytes who had obtained the inheritance or remnants of others and advanced successfully.

Although it wasn’t very often, these sorts of things occurred once every couple of years.

The approach of the powerful organisations in the South Coast was very clear. They would rope them in if possible, and if not, they had to coerce these lucky people into not spreading their knowledge about advancement!

As for the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, which was the closest to Grey Stone City, they were naturally the people in charge of enforcing this law

to the wandering magicians in the Poolfield Kingdom.

Very soon, the cloaked male and female magicians began to investigate. However, all of the eyewitnesses had more or less died. As for those who were lucky enough to survive, they seemed to be in trauma. No matter what, they could not remember Leylin's appearance. Even retrieving their memory was meaningless, so the two investigators could only leave.

At this moment, in the nearby dim forest close to Grey Stone City, Leylin stopped.

"After running for so long, I am actually not showing any signs of exhaustion. My vitality, which has reached 8.5, is indeed extraordinary!" Leylin could not mask the joy on his face.

The current Leylin was a complete beast in the form of a human. No matter how hard a greatsword would be sent chopping towards his body, his muscles would still most likely wedge it within, and hold it in place.

"According to the Book of Giant Serpent's description, usually, acolytes who advance into an official Magus would only get a great increase in their Spiritual Force, which would also form their innate talent. Warlocks, however, are different. They would be able to unearth the power of the bloodline, and obtain the strengthening of both their Spiritual Force and their physical bodies.

Leylin's vitality right now had already surpassed many Grand Knights. Even if it were the Branded Swordsmen in the legends, they would most likely only be equal to him.

Chapter 124: Innate Spell

“I am almost used to the familiarity of my physical body, but I wonder what kind of innate spell did I obtain?”

After a long run, Leylin casually did a few standard swordplay movements. After having some understanding of his reinforced body, he shifted his thoughts to other matters.

According to the Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique and the introduction of the Book of Giant Serpent, Leylin had more understanding about the innate spell of Magi.

As far as regular Magi were concerned, most of them would choose a rank 1 defensive spell model and complement it with Grine Water to make a breakthrough.

Magi, who advanced with this method, had the smallest potential. In future, if they were unable to obtain more precious resources and a Rank 2 spell model that were suitable for them, they would have absolutely no hope of advancing.

As for some large organisation heads or first-rate Magi Families’ core members, they could practise the high-level meditation techniques.

Each level of the meditation technique could correspondingly promote the rank of a Magus. Moreover, the innate spell model found in each level is fixed.

In other words, it would be easy to guess a Magus’ innate spell just by looking at a part of the high-grade meditation technique that the Magus practised.

However, Warlocks were different; they were literally “dependant on the heavens to have bountiful crops”.

[TL note: (看天吃饭) – Depends on the heavens to have bountiful crops refers to luck.]

The formation of innate spells was heavily dependent on luck, purity and concentration of the blood essence of that bloodline.

Leylin knew his luck was only so-so, but he had got the blood essence of an ancient being – the Kemoyin Serpent! Thus, it should be highly compatible with this high-level meditation technique, and would thus be good for him.

After putting a thread of his Spiritual Force into the crystal, almost instinctively, Leylin knew the details of his own innate spell.

Eye of Petrification... and... Scales of Kemoyin!

Two innate spells! That's right! There were two innate spells!

"Haha..." Leylin did not contain his laughter and let out a hearty laugh.

Concerning Warlocks, in the process of forming their innate spells, there was another scenario that could happen. That only occurs when the blood essence of the bloodline was extremely rich, almost the same as the origin of the bloodline. In such circumstances, there would be an additional innate spell.

Of course, the two innate spells Leylin obtained were Rank 1 Spells, not that he immediately advanced into a Rank 2 Magus.

Inside a Rank 2 Magus, they would have two innate spells too. However, one was a Rank 1 Spell while the other was a Rank 2 Spell! As for now, Leylin only had two spells that were of Rank 1.

Only after advancing to a Rank 2 Warlock, the Rank 2 innate spell would be formed!

As for the might of the Rank 2 Spells, they would naturally overpower the Rank 1 Spells.

Even so, having an additional spell will allow Leylin to be proud and unyielding amongst Rank 1 Magi.

This was equivalent to having an additional spell amongst the magicians of the same level, so naturally he had a great advantage.

Very soon, Leylin looked through the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique and the Book of Giant Serpent, obtaining more information on those two innate spells.

“Eye of Petrification: A petrifying gaze will be emitted from the eyes, equivalent to the might of a petrification spell. The target will immediately be petrified. For more powerful beings, they would become rigid temporarily! Consumption: Spiritual Force 1, Magic Power 1!”

“Scales of Kemoyin: A layer of scales will form instantly providing a layer of defense. Physical defense: 25 degrees! Magic defense: 27 degrees! Consumption: Every 5 hours Spiritual Force 1, Magic Power 1!”

The consumption was calculated by the A.I. Chip. Leylin looked at it blankly.

According to the estimations of the A.I. Chip, these two innate spells were rather outstanding even amongst all the Rank 1 Spells.

If it was formed through a spell model, each of the spells required consumption of at least 10 points of Spiritual Force and Magic Power.

As for now, the consumption was one-tenth of before. This was the advantage of innate spells!

Furthermore, Leylin also felt that he could only spend a consumption of 2 points in Spiritual Force and Magic Power to have the Scales of Kemoyin always in effect.

At this moment, he roughly knew what the defensive forcefield, which always hovered around Magi, was.

Those were the innate defensive spells that they had activated around them perpetually. Any attacks, as long as they do not break through their innate spell defense, will never be able to cause them any harm.

“These two innate spells, one is for offense, and the other is for defense. With them, my current abilities, even amongst official Magus, can be considered excellent!”

Leylin estimated his might calmly.

As he chose the path of Warlocks which had good meditation technique and bloodline, the benefits he obtained right after an advancement greatly surpassed that from regular Magi.

As for those newly advanced Magi, they were not Leylin's opponent at all. Only those who remained for some time inside the Rank 1 domain, those with their Spiritual Force and Magic Power almost reaching the limits and having recorded a large number of Rank 1 Spells, would be a force to be reckoned with for Leylin.

As for Rank 2 Magi? Right now Leylin was far from being their opponent. He did not even have much confidence in fleeing from them.

Every level between Magi had the difference like that between heaven and earth. It was not something that the bloodlines or better meditation technique could solve.

However, Leylin was extremely pleased with the present outcome.

After all, he had just advanced, and his path in future was broad.

With a joyful heart, Leylin took off the black robes that he put on and changed into a new set of clothes as he began to rearrange the things that he had brought along with him.

After wearing black robes, Leylin immediately hung the Fallen Star Pendant on his neck again.

"The defense of this pendant is rather low now! Most of the Rank 1 Spells are above 20 degrees. Any attack from an official Magus will be able to break the defense of this Fallen Star Pendant!"

"A.I. Chip! Establish mission and calculate the probability of improving the Fallen Star Pendant!"

[Beep! Mission establishing, beginning analysis...] The A.I. Chip carried out its mission, and also gave a stream of information for Leylin to check on the progress.

After advancing into a Rank 1 Warlock, the A.I. Chip that was connected to Leylin's soul also obtained large benefits. Its calculation abilities were evidently more powerful than before.

After changing his robes, Leylin walked towards a small stream and looked at his reflection.

In the clear waters, a handsome, black-haired youth looked back at him, his body emitting a strange charisma.

“My hair, why has it turned black?” Leylin looked at his reflection, suddenly recalling the black haired snake woman inside his dream.

“Could it be...That the dream was not just an illusion?”

Leylin faintly guessed that it was the external changes caused by the changing of bloodlines.

Moreover, Leylin realised that there were some slight changes to his face.

Leylin had a rather average countenance at the start, at most having the looks of a youth. As of now, his eyes were brighter than before, his brows sleeker and the face turned more handsome than before. Combined with the dignity as a Warlock, there was a mysterious charisma to it.

“In legends, not only did Warlocks have powerful spells and physical bodies, each and every one was a handsome man or a beauty. So, this was all influenced by the bloodline!”

Leylin looked for a while more, before continuing with his preparations.

He was a Warlock, not someone who relied on his face to live, so being handsome or ugly had no difference.

.....

Sapphire Lake, situated at the eastern part of the Poolfield Kingdom, was an extremely beautiful lake.

During winter, when the sun shines down from the sky, looking at it from a vantage point the azure lake seemed to be crystal clear like sapphire.

Not only that, there were even a special species of Blue Ice Fishes living in the Sapphire Lake. Its taste was extremely fresh and succulent. If acolytes were to include it in their diet often, it would have a slight boost in their meditation.

Hence, this area was controlled by a Magus Family.

Tyler Family was the Magus family which controlled the Sapphire Lake from nearby, to which Bicky belonged.

On this afternoon, there was a visitor inside the Tyler Family's ancient castle.

"This is the ancient castle of the Tyler Family?"

Leylin looked up at the large stone castle.

The Tyler Family's castle was erected on a cliff close to Sapphire Lake. Around it there was even a layer of poisonous cloud hovering around it, so very few people were able to come here.

Leylin sized up the giant castle. The large yellowish cliff had the depression and precipitation that withstood the test of time, silently standing here, bringing on a gloomy and declining feeling to it.

At the front of the castle were two fire breathing statues.

"The Tyler Family was known to have a period of golden age; one can tell just by looking at the outline of this ancient castle. A pity..."

Leylin touched the two lifeless statues and sighed.

Magus families which were slightly more powerful can lay a defensive spell formation around their fort. At the very least, the door guards should at least be guarded by magical creatures.

As for now, Leylin only saw two stone statues, and there was no aura of radiation coming from the ancient castle.

With Leylin's strength as a Rank 1 Spell right now, he could completely demolish this castle.

It seemed like the news of the Tyler Family of not having a Rank 1 Spell was true.

After lingering around the front of the castle for a while, the people inside it were shocked.

Boom! Huge stones axles revolving sounded, and the two sides of the door opened slowly.

“May I ask...Who are you looking for?”

A chirpy birdlike girl's voice sounded. From behind the door, a green haired girl roughly 8 to 9 years old peeked out.

“I am Leylin, looking for your family's head!”

Leylin caressed the little girl's hair.

“My Lord! I'm sorry my Lord, this is my daughter, I did not pay attention to her for a while...”

At this moment, a middle-aged man with the energy waves of a Level 2 Acolyte finally appeared from the door, looking at Leylin in fright.

“Kushy! Hurry up and bow!” The middle-aged man hugged and placed the girl behind him, making her do a bow.

From the middle-aged man's knowledge, although Leylin seemed rather young, he had the terrifying energy waves which had far surpassed himself.

“He's at least a Level 3 Acolyte!”

He would never be comparable to a Level 3 Acolyte that this young man was.

Moreover, the Tyler Family was in decline for a long time already, so they did not have much backing.

Chapter 125: Tyler Family

“Hi! I’m Leylin, here to meet the head of the Tyler Family!”

Leylin repeated his intent.

“Leylin? Leylin!” The middle-aged man repeated the name before his expression changed suddenly, before asking in a more respectful tone, “May I ask if you are the Leylin from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?”

“That’s right!” Leylin affirmed.

The smile on the middle-aged man’s face grew in splendor; it seemed more forced than good-natured as he said, “Welcome to the Tyler Family! I will immediately announce your arrival...”

After learning of Leylin’s identity, this man’s manner changed.

The man had heard Leylin’s distinguished name many times; not only was he Bicky’s junior, and Professor Kroft’s accomplished student, as well as a genius in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, rumor has it that he has astonishing talent in Potioneering and advanced to Level 3 Acolyte, with potential to become a Magus before turning 20 years old.

However, the most important thing in the letter was, Leylin had promised to compensate the damage caused by Bicky.

Thinking of this, although the man appeared deferential on the surface, there was a trace of greed within the nervousness he felt.

“I feel very upset regarding the matter of Miss Bicky...”

The man squeezed out some tears as he said, “Previously, Miss Bicky was a very obedient child, but now...”

“I am well aware of all this, bring me to see your family’s head!”

Leylin gaze turned frosty, and the middle-aged felt a chill run down his spine. He felt as if he were being stalked by an extremely dangerous beast.

“I shall go at once! I shall go at once!”

Following which, he took hold of his daughter and immediately vanished

behind the door.

More than ten minutes later, Leylin had already been received within the great hall of the castle and was in the presence of the Tyler Family's patriarch.

"Distinguished guest! I am Tyler Family's patriarch – Johnson Tyler! I welcome you to the Tyler Fort, and I hope that your stay here will be pleasant."

The patriarch of Tyler Family was known as Johnson Tyler. He was an old man wearing a formal black attire and had a head of lustrous, silver hair which had been carefully combed. But his eyes appeared a muddy white.

[Johnson Tyler. Level 3 Acolyte. Strength: 1.9, Agility: 2.5, Strength: 2.0, Spiritual Force: 13. Magic Artifact on target's body can unleash attacks up to three times, each producing a force of more than 20 degrees.]

A trace of blue light, invisible to others, flashed through Leylin's optic nerve, as the A.I. chip scanned and recorded the information regarding the Tyler Family's patriarch.

Then, Leylin's nose twitched; he had smelled a deteriorating and decaying odor emitted from that Patriarch's body.

It was clear from the many wrinkles on this patriarch's face that this man did not have many years of his lifespan left.

Too weak! This kind of strength, in front of Leylin, was the same as grinding an ant to dust.

Leylin swept a glance from top to toe of the patriarch and found that the Magic Artifact he wore was somewhat decent.

If a Level 3 Acolyte were allowed to pay an extremely high cost, they could attain a Magic Artifact suitable for a Rank 1 Magus. It seemed that this was something that was passed down the family.

However, from what Leylin saw, instead of one hit, he needed just two to take Johnson down.

The disparity between their strengths was too high, and Leylin did not feel inclined to gossip with him.

“My purpose for coming here is: as stated in my letter from before, I will pay a sufficient cost to compensate for the Rainbow Potion, and you all must pardon Bicky of her crimes.”

Leylin ignored the angry look upon the patriarch’s face and found a seat to sit down on.

Seeing that Leylin did not show any courtesy, a trace of fury flashed in the eyes of Johnson Tayler, but he quickly suppressed it.

But within his mind, he felt aggrieved, as if a large stone had been placed in his heart. Since when could a Level 3 Acolyte act this brazenly inside the Tyler Fort?

However, Johnson had, after all, had plenty of experiences during his span of life. Moreover, he could always detect a trace of danger from Leylin.

The many years of training made Johnson put a smile on his face as if he was not even the teensiest bit angry due to Leylin’s actions.

“The Rainbow Potion is a precious ancient treasure, right now many of its ingredients are hard to find...”

“I will give the Grine Water in exchange for it!”

“Wh... What...” Johnson stammered immediately, and an unbelievable expression filled his face.

“I said that I will give the Grine Water for it! That would be enough to exchange for the Rainbow Potion, would it not? After all, the Rainbow Potion’s effect is to complement the success rate with the Grine Water. When comparing the treasures, the Grine Water is much rarer!”

Leylin interlaced his fingers as he smiled, immediately throwing out a temptation that Johnson could not refuse.

The composition and effect of the Grine Water had long since been analysed by the A.I. Chip during this period.

Only that the brewing process required a lot of ingredients to carry out. Leylin did not have that many ingredients on him, so he could only make do with the analysis.

According to the A.I. Chip's calculation, the effect of the Grine Water was to burn the life force of the acolyte and breakthrough the Spiritual Force bottleneck.

This method had very evidently had a huge backlash and after effect.

As for Leylin, although he burnt a little of his life force during his advancement, it was very soon replenished by the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's blood essence.

Leylin guessed that it was the tremendous vitality found within the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's blood essence that substituted his own life force that was burnt during the advancement.

Hence, after advancement, right now Leylin had at least 500 to 600 years of lifespan according to the A.I. Chip.

As for normal Rank 1 Magus, even if they used many methods to prolong their life, they would at most live up to 200-300 years old.

Moreover, after Leylin advanced to a Rank 1 Warlock, the Grine Water that had effect for acolytes was not of much use to him anymore.

Leylin had planned to exchange it for some resources, but now it seems that using it as compensation was not a bad idea too.

As expected, after hearing the words 'Grine Water,' this patriarch Johnson began to pant.

There hasn't been the birth of an official Magus in the Tyler Family for over 300 years!

Moreover due to the decline of the bloodline and lack of resources, the Tyler Family members had very little chance of advancement. They did not even have a Level 3 Acolyte where the academy chairman could fawn upon to sign a contract. So naturally they had no way of obtaining the Grine Water.

As for other families, they were extremely pleased to watch the decline of the Tyler Family before stepping in to swoop all of their resources. Thus, there weren't any good-natured people to aid them.

Although the Rainbow Potion was good, it was not rarer than the Grine Water.

After all, the Rainbow Potion's effect that could raise the success rate was rather hard to determine. It would at most raise it by 20%.

However, the Grine Water was different! With it and an outstanding acolyte, the Tyler Family could definitely try to cultivate their own official Magus! They did not have to be restrained by other contracts!

However, although this wily fox Johnson was extremely willing, he still put on a difficult expression.

"When Bicky stole the Rainbow Potion, she even ruined some treasures..."

Leylin shook his head. He had already predicted such a scene before his advancement.

Even if he was willing to compensate, he would definitely be ripped off.

As he was merely a Level 3 Acolyte, yet the other party was from a Magus family. Even if it was a declining family, their power is still to be reckoned with for any regular acolytes.

If Johnson did not ruthlessly try to knock off a huge amount from Leylin, then he would have lived to this ripe old age in vain.

"Enough!" Leylin's face darkened.

At the same time, a mighty Spiritual Force energy wave emanated from his body.

Hu Hu Hu! As if a strong gale had swept past, the cloth on the tables and curtains on the windows let off a rattling sound.

The mighty Spiritual Force of an official Magus mercilessly swept through the fort as frightened wails were heard.

Many youths in the Tyler Family fainted on the spot, without making a sound.

They were all regular humans without any resistance to Magus's methods.

As for those Level 1 Acolyte and Level 2 Acolyte, they were not any better off. Their faces were reddened as they tried their best to support themselves and not fall onto the ground.

"Of... Official Magus?!"

As if seeing a ghost, Johnson's mouth gaped widely, large enough to stuff several duck eggs inside.

After which, fright surfaced on his face as he immediately knelt onto the ground, "Most respected Lord Magus! Please be appeased and let my family members off!"

Seeing that Johnson, who had wanted to rip him off just a few moments before, was now kneeling on the floor like a frightened rabbit, Leylin harrumphed coldly. However, he still retrieved his Spiritual Force.

Leylin only did a slight test earlier with some restraint. If not, the regular humans in the fort would have all died from the radiation.

Johnson shuddered as he knelt, his inner heart wildly howling, "This Spiritual Force definitely belongs to an official Magus! It can't be wrong! He... He is only 18 at most!"

Once he thought of having offended such a genius official Magus, Johnson desired to cry yet there were no tears. He even had the notion of committing suicide.

"Bicky! Yes! His relationship with her is good!" Johnson's eyes lit up as he suddenly thought of this point.

"Quick! Quick bring Bicky here! No... Maid! First, bring her for a bath..."

After seeking approval from Leylin, Johnson scampered off and ran into a large hall, screaming at an acolyte that was sprawled on the floor.

After which, Johnson put on a flattering smile as he bowed towards

Leylin. “My Lord, do you have any other orders?”

Looking at his shameless behaviour, Leylin was somewhat speechless.

After all, this was Bicky’s family; he could not do things to the extremes.

After Johnson accompanied Leylin in trepidation for another dozen minutes or so, Leylin finally got to see Bicky.

Bicky had apparently gone for grooming; her hair even had water droplets which had not been dried properly. She wore a white gown, her expression, however, did not seem very well, having huge eye bags and dark circles around her eyes.

“You... You’re Leylin?!”

Bicky looked at Leylin who stood there unyieldingly and then at her family head who was smiling obsequiously, suddenly feeling dizzy as she tried to connect the dots...

Chapter 126: Clayde

Several minutes later, within the large hall.

There was no one else apart from Leylin and Bicky.

Leylin and Bicky sat facing each other, only separated by a small, white round-table. There were many appetizers and aperitifs arranged on this table.

Bicky was holding a piece of sponge cake within her hand, but it appeared she had no appetite.

“Is it true? How did you actually get promoted to a level 1 Magus this soon?”

Bicky, still appearing absent-minded, picked up a steaming drink and took a gulp.

“Congratulations, Leylin! Also, thank you for coming over to help me.”

“Don’t mention it. After all, you are my friend.” Leylin smiled as he said.

“That’s right! You are a good friend.” Bicky unconsciously repeated whatever Leylin said, still looking dazed.

“What do you plan to do from now on?” asked Leylin, anxiously, seeing Bicky acting in this manner.

“In the future?” Bicky bowed her head as in deep thought and said, “I do not intend to return to the academy. I shall go and travel and perhaps one day; I will return to my family...”

Saying this, she looked eagerly at Leylin, “Maybe I can become your follower?”

After becoming an official Magus, a person can usually accept a few followers and agree upon a soul contract where the followers would pledge their life and loyalty to their master. In return, based on their accomplishments, the masters would have to provide their followers with knowledge and resources to the best of their abilities.

And in the outside world, a follower can be the representative of their

master to a certain extent.

“This will not do!” Leylin refused Bicky’s request after thinking for a while.

“I have a big problem on hand. Besides all that...”

Even though Leylin did not speak it out, Bicky understood that followers must have certain strength, which could, later on, be of help to their masters

Now, Leylin was already a Magus. With his talent, this was only the beginning of his journey.

And because of this, Leylin’s followers’ aptitudes should not be lousy. Otherwise, further cultivation would be useless.

Bicky’s spiritual aptitude was not very good—till now she was still only a Level 2 Acolyte. Leylin reckoned that, if she did not experience any strange events, the status of a Level 3 Acolyte would be the highest she could achieve in her lifetime, which would not be of much help to him.

“If it’s like this! I merely made a passing remark...” Bicky laughed forcefully.

Seeing the way Bicky behaved, Leylin suddenly felt he had a headache coming on. He said, “Regarding Fayle, have you decided what is to be done?”

“About him...” Bicky remained silent for a moment.

A good while later, she calmly spoke, “He entered the Purple-Gold Flower Family and now has both Grine Water and the Rainbow Potion. I am afraid that he has already broken through and become an official Magus. What can I do?”

“At an appropriate moment, I will make him pay the price.”

Leylin still wished to offer some hope and guarantee to Bicky.

Certainly, when and how he will take revenge is up to him to decide. In any case, Leylin himself wasn’t prepared to be riddled with troubles to kill the guy who cheated Bicky.

Even if Fayle had advanced, he was now only a newly-minted Magus—which was definitely not a match for Leylin.

Moreover, there were many Rank 1 Spells contained within that Book of Serpent, some which can kill people without a trace of sound. Outsiders will definitely not be able to connect the death to Leylin.

Bicky's eyes reddened as tears the size of beans rolled down her cheek.

"Thank you! Thank you! Leylin..."

She cried as she pounced into Leylin's arms. Leylin's expression was tender as he hugged her with his left arm, with the right hand patting her gently on the back.

After which, Leylin made a strange gesture with his right arm where Bicky did not realise it.

A greyish black gas was pulled out from Bicky's body and held firmly in Leylin's hands.

Several hours later, after refusing Johnson's invite to stay, Leylin left the Tyler Fort on his own.

Before leaving, he still went according to the contract and gave the Grine Water to the Tyler Family as compensation.

In exchange, Johnson pardoned Bicky's crime in front of all the members, even with the intent of making her the successor immediately.

Leylin walked a good long distance before looking back at Tyler Fort. With his vision, he could see a smoky white figure standing alone in front of the Tyler Fort, maintaining the gesture of sending Leylin off earlier.

"I hope the potions I gave her will be of some use!"

Before leaving, Leylin even gave Bicky some of his modified Azure Potion and told her clearly of its uses. And like before, Leylin told a lie, saying that he managed to chance across them and made a purchase.

Although he had the strength of a Rank 1 Warlock now and could definitely protect a potion's formula, he still wished to avoid trouble.

To him, Bicky and the other acolytes in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy were only part of his journey to climb to the top.

He would slightly halt in this part of the journey, but not forever.

He still wished to climb further to greater heights, to see and accomplish more things.

Perhaps, after he had climbed to the highest point, he would then reminisce of his past and return to it.

But before that, he will never leave behind any regrets!

“The issues are almost settled. Maybe I should leave the Poolfield Kingdom and travel around the South Coast?”

The Lilytell Family was a large family with a strong backing. Leylin's might could not even be compared to a fraction of it.

Leylin did not assume that after advancing into a Rank 1 Warlock, he would be able to eradicate this family.

Moreover, at the very end, the Chairman Siley of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy will definitely appear. This was a Rank 2 Magus! An existence Leylin had no chance against right now!

As the representative of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Siley will definitely take action!

After thinking for some while, Leylin felt that deserting the school was his best choice.

As for whether his professors and friends would be implicated?

No matter if it was Kroft, or the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy members, or even Nyssa and the other acolytes, they were all members of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

As one of the three big families, the Lilytell Family had to maintain its decorum of nobility and exercise the compliance of rules.

Towards this, the noble family amongst regular humans which Leylin was born in were not much different.

Moreover, even if the Lilytell Family did not want face at the end and used other people as hostage to capture him, so what?

Would Leylin be this foolish to walk right into this trap?

Although Leylin would offer his help for Bicky and the rest of them, it always came with a prerequisite. That he had enough power to do it and it would not bring him much trouble.

Once exceeding this threshold, Leylin would somewhat become cold-blooded.

To put it in another way: even if the Lilytell Family went to the Chernobyl Islands and used the Farlier Family as a hostage to threaten him, Leylin would not give two hoots about it.

At the very most, after his power had increased, he would return to exterminate the Lilytell Family, thus avenging the Farlier Family.

Leylin thought of his plans as he rode on a horse along the road.

Thud Thud!

With the fast trampling of the horse hoofs, they ran past a forest.

As for Leylin, he had been squinting his eyes. At this moment, they were suddenly opened, and a streak of toying expression appeared on his face.

Pu!

Just when the horse was about to leave the forest clearing, several arcs of light shot out from the trees.

Ka-Cha!

With a huge boom, the fine steed was severed into a few pieces, bleeding out a huge amount of blood and intestines.

At that moment when the light hit his horse, Leylin used his palm to press on the horse, grabbed his knapsack and jumped away from it.

When both of his feet landed on the ground, he realised he had been surrounded by a group of black-robed figures.

They all gave off the energy waves of Level 3 Acolytes. A few of them

also had the aura of Magic Artifacts radiating from their bodies. As for the one in the centre, his strength had already reached the standard of an official Magus!

The clothes on these black robed figures had an image of several crows stitched on with a gold lining on it.

“Such a getup? The Academy’s Enforcement Squad?”

Leylin already guessed who they were, and calmness showed on his face.

“Leylin! Someone has accused you of killing your fellow Level 3 Acolytes. Bosain, Jayden, Shaya and Roth. Come back with us for your trial!”

The scarred faced leader did not hide the killing intent in his eyes.

Leylin understood that the Lilytell Family had finally investigated the matter previously, and even push the blame of the other Level 3 Acolytes death onto his head.

“And if I say no?”

The people who surrounded Leylin were not only Level 3 Acolytes but also an official Magus. Before his advancement, he could not even escape such a formation. But now, Leylin had an impulse and was rather eager to battle.

“Defying the Enforcement Squad! Kill on the spot!”

The official Magus, Scarface, unleashed his killing intent and waved his hands.

Many incantations sounded, and various energy waves were emitted.

Dazzling fireballs! Jade green corrosive acid! Purple blades, as well as several other Magic Artifacts were used, appearing above Leylin’s head.

Bang!

A huge pit appeared on where Leylin stood. On the sides there were still flames burning, the surroundings littered with broken bones and mutilated corpses.

“He’s already killed?” An acolyte behind Scarface spoke.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, the acolyte's brains exploded with the white brain juices and blood splattering on the ground.

“Ted?!”

The group members behind him shouted with faces of disbelief.

Sua! Sua! Sua!

Arrows were immediately shot off, causing the Level 3 Acolytes behind the official Magus to have their heads explode.

“This is? Illusionary Spell?” Scarface shouted and immediately chanted an incantation.

Sssii!!

Ear piercing wails continuously sounded, and the air in the surroundings seemed to undulate like waves in the water.

The void seemed to be ripped open like the curtains from a theatre. Scarface looked at the surroundings. The Level 3 Acolytes were all laying on the ground with their eyes shut tightly, not knowing if they were still alive or dead.

However, at this moment, the official Magus did not pay any more attention to them.

“You... Advanced?” Scarface had a shocked expression, “You actually... Advanced into an official Magus at 18 years old!”

“What a frightening talent. A pity you have offended the Lilytell Family, so you're destined to die here!”

Scarface licked his lips, revealing a bloodthirsty expression. “Let me introduce myself. Clayde is my name, Clayde Lilytell!”

Chapter 127: Defeat

The moment Clayde declared his name, Leylin gave out an order silently.

“A.I. Chip, Scan the target in front of me!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, scanning in progress... A defensive forcefield around the target detected, unable to collect data!]

As expected, the A.I. Chip still gave the same answer.

“Which is to say, if I broke through the layer of forcefield, I’ll be able to scan it?”

Leylin used an immense force on his legs and charged towards Clayde like a bullet.

Bang!

Leylin’s right hand bulged, and the strength of his fist reached 7.1 degrees, smashing onto Clayde’s chest.

The sound like a hammer striking at leather sounded. With a huge spark, Clayde was sent flying backwards.

Leylin stood at where Clayde stood originally as he looked at his arm.

Black scales appeared above the skin. On the scales, there were tiny traces of flames continuously flickering.

[Data of target’s defensive forcefield obtained, comparing to database!]

[Determined target’s innate spell as high-temperature forcefield, creating a flame of 24 degrees to burn objects within its vicinity!]

[Target’s forcefield damaged: 4.6%. 20 more strikes are estimated to break the defensive forcefield!]

The A.I. Chip reported to data to Leylin.

“Cough cough...”

At this moment, Clayde who was lying on the ground got up. There was soot on his somewhat dirtied face.

“What tremendous speed and strength! A pity that you only advanced not too long ago, so how many Rank 1 Spell could you have learnt? Two? One? Or do you only have your innate forcefield?”

Clayde patted his chest and yelled.

Often Magi, who just advanced were in their weakest stages, not to mention memorising a few Rank 1 Spells. More often than not, they could not afford a single use scroll or Magic Artifact either.

After Clayde had finished yelling, he chanted an incantation immediately.

The energy particles in the air changed visibly, shining a dazzling yellow light.

“This might, at least 20 degrees...”

Leylin’s expression turned solemn. Right now his Kemoyin’s Scales resistance was only at 27 degrees. It was considered pretty good amongst newly advanced Magi, but it could not fend off all of the Rank 1 Spells.

Only by continuously tapping into the strength of the bloodline, the Kemoyin’s Scales would become stronger.

As for now, once the opponent’s attack exceeded 27 degrees, it would immediately break through his forcefield.

“I can’t let him cast any spells!” Leylin’s pupils contracted

Crash! The black light flickered, and finely articulated scales surfaced on his body, even his face was included.

In an instant, Leylin was covered by a layer of snake’s scales. He right now looked half snake and half human.

The blackness of the scales had an ancient aura and reflected a cold, glossy light which sent Clayde’s heart racing a little faster.

“Such a defensive forcefield? So strong!”

“Die!” Leylin shouted, and he moved quicker than before, charging towards Clayde.

Clayde snorted, and a layer of green light appeared on his body which turned into thorns as they blocked Leylin.

Bang! Bang!

Leylin's expression did not change as he swung his fists. After two punches, the thorns shattered.

After covering himself with the Kemoyin's Scales and coupling it with his Strength, Leylin was now like an ancient creature, with an aura that was unstoppable.

Clayde face turned rather unsightly after seeing Leylin breaking through the thorns like wild grass.

"You damned worm! What other methods you have, use them all now!"

Leylin howled and felt every drop of his blood being set ablaze. It made his appetite to battle even more intense than before.

"Damn it!" As Clayde chanted, he kept on changing positions. Moreover, he even activated several Magic Artifacts to block Leylin from advancing.

Although the might of these low-grade Magic Artifacts were not strong and mostly restraint type, breaking through them still required some effort.

After Leylin broke through another layer of ice, Clayde finally finished his incantation of a Rank 1 Spell. An enormous blue fireball was sent flying towards Leylin.

Boom!

After the heat wave had dissipated, the mud around the area melted, creating a large pit.

"Haha... No one could survive after being hit by my corrosive fireball!"

Clayde laughed heartily. The joy of killing a genius early in developing stages swelled in his chest.

However, Clayde's expression very soon changed and he hurriedly retreated several steps, as if he saw something unfathomable.

“How... How’s this possible, he’s actually still alive?”

In the sea of blue fire, a human figure parted the flames and walked out from it.

At this moment, Leylin’s clothes were thoroughly razed to ashes, revealing his scaly body. The A.I. Chip’s warning continuously rang within his ear.

[Host has suffered an energy attack! Element: Fire, Acid. Estimated power: 20 degrees. Actual power: 26 degrees. Host’s innate spell, Kemoyin’s Scales, was activated! Energy consumed: 34%. No harm dealt directly to Host!]

“It’s actually an attack of 26 degrees. Just one more degree to breaking my defense!”

Leylin had some lingering fear before it manifested into a stronger killing intent!

Bang! His figure flickered and appeared right in front of Clayde. The fist covered with scales punched Clayde’s chest with a tremendous might.

Crash! A bright red flame rose from Clayde’s chest, engulfing Leylin’s fist within.

Bang! Clayde’s face turned red as he was sent flying backwards.

Leylin stepped forward, ignoring the flames on his body as he throttled Clayde.

“Run! Why don’t you run again?”

Leylin’s expression turned malevolent, ramming fists after fists on Clayde’s body.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Massive explosions sounded continuously, and the earth quivered as if there was an earthquake.

Finally, after some time, Clayde cried out, and the flames on his body disappeared.

[Target's defensive forcefield broken, acquiring data...]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned, bringing Leylin, who was somewhat frenzied back to his senses.

"What happened? I was actually this impulsive and reckless?"

Thinking of how he did not dodge or block as he smashed his opponent's defensive forcefield, cold sweat trickled down Leylin's forehead.

Normally he would have never acted that way. Not to mention the final barrage of attack like a madman was not his way of handling things usually.

[Clayde Lilytell. Strength: 4.5, Agility: 3.7, Vitality: 5.6, Spiritual Force: 31. Elemental Essence Conversion: Fire! Progress: 30%...]

Clayde, who was lying on the ground, had his data extracted and sent to Leylin.

"Elemental Essence Conversion? No wonder his acidic fireball was so strong!" Realisation appeared on Leylin's face.

After advancing into a Rank 1 Magus, if one wanted to advance again, the basic conditions was to complete the Elemental Essence Conversion!

At this time, the importance of having an affinity for elements was finally shown. If one does not choose the highest affinity element to cultivate in, it's impossible to have the Elemental Essence Conversion progress to get over 80%. Which is to say, they would never be able to advance into a Rank 2 Magus!

Furthermore, with the increase in Elemental Essence Conversion, it would improve the might of spells of that particular element.

Originally Clayde's acidic fireball only had a power degree of 20. However, after the 30% Elemental Essence Conversion it reached 26 degrees, almost breaking Leylin's defenses.

Moreover, the multiplier effect could only be applied on one's chosen element affinity. For instance, Clayde's fiery spell could have a 30%

multiplier, but the spells of other elements would remain the same. In cases such as Water or Ice Elements, the power might even be reduced.

However, why would Magi gifted with the affinity of Fire element even use Water and Ice spells?

Blue light flashed in Leylin's eyes continuously. This was the first report of data he obtained from a Rank 1 Magus. It could aid his understanding towards himself, complete the database and even compare the stats to a Warlock's.

"You... Kill me now! The Lilytell Family will never let you off!"

When the innate defensive forcefield of Magi was broken, they would also suffer damage on their sea of consciousness. At this moment, Clayde was already near his last breath.

"Why do I suddenly feel like the villain?"

Seeing Clayde, who put on a 'loyal and unyielding' expression, Leylin wanted to laugh.

"You wish for death? It's too early for that!"

Leylin forcefully chugged a potion down Clayde's throat. Clayde's eyes turned white immediately, and he fainted. There were even some forbidden runes appearing on his body which isolated the branding of spell formation on his body.

After hastily cleaning up the area and packing his spoils, Leylin picked Clayde up and left the area.

With the Vitality of 8.5, even if Leylin were to run for a day he would not be exhausted. The reason why he chose to ride a horse previously was just for convenience.

After running wildly for several li, Leylin then had the notion of checking his body status.

It worried him that he lost his control in the battle earlier.

"A.I. Chip! Bring out the data monitored earlier and investigate the cause of losing control!" Leylin managed to simmer down only after sitting

in a refreshing stream and cooling off.

[Beep! Mission establishing! Bringing out monitored data!] The A.I. Chip intoned icily, not bringing any trace of emotion.

[14 Hours 23 Minutes, abnormal activities observed within Host. Blood flow increased by almost 45%, activity of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent blood essence significantly increased!]

The A.I. Chip reported the series of data to Leylin. Through a comparison, there was a strange stimulant released by the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's bloodline during the battle earlier. It was similar to doping, and the stimulation caused Leylin to lose his rationality.

"This is the origin of the Warlocks' emotional aftereffects?"

Leylin muttered, immediately asking, "A.I. Chip, bring out the best solutions to solve this!"

[Beep! Method 1: Forsake the Giant Kemoyin Serpent! Method 2: Use the Serenity Potion! Method 3: ...]

Very soon, the A.I. Chip presented the possible solutions to Leylin.

Chapter 128: Fayle

“The ingredients needed for Method 3 and above are too precious. I can’t even get them now!”

“Right now the Giant Kemoyin Serpent’s bloodline is already fused with my body and even the soul. Forcefully removing it would mean that I will demote from a Rank 1 Warlock. I might even lose my life, so this is impossible!”

“It seems like I can only hurry and brew the Serenity Potion!” Leylin’s face was solemn.

He long since gotten the formula and even gathered the ingredients in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Brewing the completed potion was only a matter of time.

He thought he could rely on his willpower to overcome adversities. However, the emotional fluctuations had perplexed Warlocks for hundreds of thousands of years. It was something that could not be easily overcome with mere willpower.

Leylin was always proud of being a rational person. A circumstance where he could not control things was tormenting for him.

After which, Leylin looked at a nearby cave and gave a cold smile.

After stripping Clayde of his belongings, he trapped Clayde, who was unconscious, in a cave.

Leylin was somewhat anticipatory on the information about the Lilytell Family.

Even though he suspected that Clayde has some sort of tracing spell on him, Leylin still decided to grill him.

As long as he acts fast enough, Leylin predicts that he can leave before Clayde regains full consciousness.

Moreover, the enemy merely assumed Leylin to be a Level 3 Acolyte; they would never anticipate that Clayde would fail. However, Clayde will never

have the chance to be assigned to such an easy task in the future.

.....

After a few hours, Leylin retrieved what he wanted and left the area.

Nothing was left of Clayde's presence in the area except for a pool of yellow pus.

"I never thought that Bosain's backing would be this powerful. He was the only grandson to an elder who had reached the requirements of advancement by having an Elemental Essence Conversion of 80% and above..."

Leylin pondered on the latest developments as he hurried along his way.

Potion Masters crafted different types of potions. Leylin accumulated an assorted bunch of torture methods from the experiments in Extreme Night City. Leylin tested these torture methods on Clayde. Very quickly, the official Magus was driven to near insanity, letting the cat out of the bag in the process as he begged for a quick death.

According to Clayde, Bosain's grandfather was a powerful elder of the Lilytell Family and also a magus that Clayde was serving.

This was the reason why he was able to command the Rank 1 Magus.

After eliminating the linchpin of the enemy and Clayde, Leylin knew that the powerful elder's hate for him grew by the day.

However, there was still good news at the end.

Because of selecting the head inside the Lilytell Family, the internal conflict in the Lilytell Family had reached a critical point. The various elders were not affiliated with each other; thus, Leylin only needed to worry about escaping from Bosain's' grandfather.

However, the audacity of Leylin to kill the enemies' linchpin magus has angered all of the clans in the family and they will certainly not mind dispatching of Leylin if it was convenient.

Alone, Leylin stood no chance against the powerful clans

Leylin took little time to realise that his best option was to escape

The Poolfield Kingdom was Abyssal Bone Forest Academy territory, which was sort of Lilytell Family's gathering grounds. The more to the east, the more obvious it gets.

The region to the north was filled with unspeakable dangers. Leylin decided that West was the way to go. He ploughed through the Zither Moon Mountain Plains and entered the vicinity of the Sage Gotham Hut

The two forces just had a war, where they were irreconcilable like fire and water.

In the vicinity of the Sage Gotham Hut, the influence of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was definitely the weakest.

However, Leylin was not planning to stay for long in the vicinity of Sage Gotham Hut. Although they would definitely be willing to rope in an official Magus and even put the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy at a disadvantage, Leylin had never planned to be a pawn for them.

The whole South Coast was still big! Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and Sage Gotham Hut only belonged to the remote area on the eastern side of the south coast, like the rural area.

After passing through the Inlan Dukedom controlled by the Sage Gotham Hut and passing through the Great Canyon Margaret and traversing through a dozen more kingdoms, he reached the central area of the South Coast.

It was said that the Light Magi in this area held the highest power and could live in harmony with regular humans. Massacres and battles seldom occurred here.

Leylin's plan was to continue his progress in this area.

Although he only needed to meditate the high-grade meditation technique to advance, it did not mean that he had no need for resources.

Rather, it was just the contrary, no matter if it was for Elemental Essence Conversion or the decreased time between meditations, Leylin required

resources, lots of magical resources!

At the same time, he required huge quantities of potions and to obtain enough gold for it.

All these required a distribution centre to collect the ingredients.

The largest markets in the South Coast were in the central region, which was overseen by the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and other large magisterium.

As he thought of Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, Leylin recalled George.

It was a youth who set off at the same time as him, finally entering the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower for his studies. In a flash, five to six years had passed. George had a fourth-grade aptitude, so it was very likely he had already advanced into a Level 3 Acolyte.

“I wonder how they are now.”

Leylin muttered as he sped up his pace towards the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

Bang!

A huge cave immediately crumbled into a landslide, showing the apparent rage of the person who struck it.

Under the rubble, the figure of an old man in silver white armour could be seen.

There were some strange metal ornaments on this old man's face, his eyes showing his wrath.

“Clayde... Clayde was actually killed too!”

“I will definitely not let you go!” The old man gritted his teeth, the veins on his forehead bulging.

.....

Fayle's frame of mind was somewhat good the past few days.

Especially when his servants and acolytes called him; Lord Magus Fayle', he would often have some smugness from it.

Fayle did have the ability to be arrogant.

Before the age of 30, he already advanced into an official Magus! This degree of progress even shocked his mentor.

Fayle enjoyed giving this astonishment to others.

Moreover, with his title as a genius, the Purple-Gold Flower Family took its initiative to rope him in, offering him an attractive contract.

The restraints from the spirit contract were much looser than those given by the Academy.

Although he lost some freedom, it was insignificant compared to the knowledge of advancement and a Rank 1 defensive spell model.

Without these two items, he would never be able to advance into a Rank 1 Magus; maybe to add one more item—Rainbow Potion!

Fayle immediately thought of Bicky after recalling the Rainbow Potion. “I guess that fool has already been killed off by her family?”

He smirked in disdain.

Previously, if not for Bicky always sending him Magic Crystals and other resources, he would have already kicked her away already.

Moreover, Bicky unknowingly revealed that her family had a Rainbow Potion in their possession, so Fayle could not hold back from wanting it.

First, he put on an act to save her in the bloodbath to deepen their relationship. Afterwards, he told her of his concerns in advancement, and requested her to steal her family’s treasure!

“Hng! I, Fayle, will be a monarch unifying the South Coast in future. Why would I even have my eyes on such trash?”

Furthermore, according to some inside information, the Purple-Gold Flower Family wanted to betroth a young girl to him. This was normally the methods used by Magi families to rope in genius Magi.

Not only could they bind him on their bandwagon, but they could also inject new heirs with superior bloodlines.

“Men...Mentor, it’s time to have lunch!”

A shy voice sounded. It was a blonde female acolyte wearing grey robes. She was only about 11 or 12, where there was some baby fat on her cheeks.

“En!” Fayle acknowledged and caressed the girl’s cheek.

The girl’s face reddened yet she did not dare to move, letting Fayle touch her. Finally, she left with an embarrassed expression.

An insatiable lust could not be concealed in Fayle’s eyes as he watched the girl’s leaving figure.

Fayle knew that he had some fetish towards this aspect. For example... He did not like mature women but only young girls!

This little girl was an acolyte he had taken in after becoming an official Magus. As for why he took her under his wing, it was the Purple-Gold Flower Family’s request. On the other hand, it was also after seeing how she was this pure and lovable.

He always felt it was disdainful to hide his desires.

Moreover, to outsiders, there was nothing wrong with that.

Official Magi always have special rights. Furthermore, if it was only this much the Purple-Gold Flower Family had to invest in to get the teachings of an official Magus, the little girl was definitely benefitting from it.

Fayle, whose robes was neat and tidy, sat on a long table.

Beside him was the little girl from before.

Around them, there was a dozen of maids and menservants quietly attending to their needs.

In reality, there were the servants assigned by the Purple-Gold Flower Family, so he did not have to waste a single coin.

Moreover, even this tower that he lived in was constructed by the Purple-Gold Flower Family and sent to him by the initiative.

Every time something like that happened, Fayle would be put in a good mood.

“What’s today’s lunch menu?”

“Fresh tenderloin beef, My Lord!” An old housekeeper bowed and replied.

A pretty maid went open and opened the golden lid. An aroma of hot food wafted in the air. In the middle was a well-done beef tenderloin steak, coupled with soup and juice.

Fayle expertly cut with the knife and used the silver fork to poke the meat.

“This meat... Seemed to be redder than regular beef...”

Fayle spoke indifferently and placed the meat piece into his mouth...

After eating, Fayle used a white napkin to wipe his lips.

“Today’s beef flavour was pretty good, where did the beef come from?”

“My Lord! It was a meat vendor who approached our front door and pitched a sale. I saw that the steak quality was not bad, so I bought a few...” The housekeeper reported.

“Isn’t this the outer vicinity of the Purple-Gold Flower Family? There are actually meat vendors coming up to sell their goods?”

Fayle suddenly felt that it was absurd.

Chapter 129: An Incurable Curse

“Yes, I remember it clearly. That meat vendor wore a black hood, his dishevelled hair covering half his face. There was a metal hook on his left hand...”

The housekeeper vividly recalled the memory of the meat vendor.

“This is really strange!” Fayle shook his head and looked at the little girl beside him.

“How is the construction of your mind runes coming on?”

“I have already constructed three but I can’t seem to construct the fourth! Also, inside the <All Living Things> biology...” The little girl reported back meekly.

“So it’s like this?” Fayle interlaced his fingers.

“Your progress is too slow. Tonight you must come to my room, I’ll be personally ‘coaching’ you!”

“Yes, Mentor!” The little girl replied softly.

Dang Dang Dang!

The copper grandfather clock in the hall gave a resounding boom and the clock struck 12 times. The sky outside had already darkened and one could slightly see some visible blue stars.

“It’s already so late, why isn’t Nida here yet!”

Fayle slammed opened the door with a loud bang, annoyance evidently seen on his face.

“Nida! Nida!” Fayle began to shout.

His voice echoed throughout the silent hallway, reverberating for a long distance.

The surroundings were in dead silence. Fayle could even hear his own breathing and the flow of his blood.

“Housekeeper! Housekeeper! Maids! Where are they?!”

Impatience began to show on his face, as he hurriedly put on his outer garments and stepped outside of the door.

Dong Dong Dong! The sound of leather boots striking the floor was heard.

A black figure walked slowly towards Fayle.

“Who? Who’s there?” Fayle called out warily, a silver short sword appearing in his hands.

No matter how Fayle shouted, the footsteps maintained a constant pace that was neither too fast nor slow and walked towards him.

When the black figure drew closer, Fayle could almost see the full appearance of the figure.

It was a middle-aged man who wore black robes. On his chest hung the trademark apron that butchers wore. On his head was a black hood, his dishevelled hair covering most of his face. What was especially attracting was his empty left sleeves. Instead, only a rusty metal hook was seen at the end of the sleeve.

This description perfectly fit the one that the housekeeper mentioned earlier.

Weng!

The silver short sword glinted and flew directly to the man with a whistling sound.

Pu! As if piercing through an illusion, ripples appeared on the meat vendor’s body and the silver short sword went through it.

“Illusory spell?!” Fayle’s lips started to move as he chanted a high pitched incantation.

Xiu Xiu!

A mixture of the sound of a quick panting on a metallic flute and like the sound of a rusty knife scraping against a metal continuously sounded, causing ripples in the air.

After the whistling sound ended, it was still absolute silence in the tall tower, as if the world only had Fayle and the meat vendor in it.

The black robed man immediately raised his left hook and swung it at Fayle.

Bubble! From Fayle's body, a layer of fluid formed transparent water shield, blocking the metal hook's assault.

This was Fayle's innate spell which was finally activated in crucial moments!

Seizing this opportunity, Fayle hurriedly chanted and multiple frost spikes were shot towards the man.

Pu! Pu!

The frost spikes entered the body and countless blood was spurted out. However, the man in the robes seemed not to be conscious about it, even his expression did not change, like that of a zombie who did not know pain. He continuously brandished his metal hook, causing ripples after ripples on the water shield.

"Fuck, what is this damned thing?"

Fayle struck at the man in the robes for several more times before his mental fortitude seemed to be on the verge of collapse.

No matter if it was physical or magical attacks, it all amounted to nothing when they landed on this man's body.

Instead, every strike from this metal hook continuously consumed the energy needed to maintain the innate spell. Fayle could clearly feel that if the opponent were to attack several more times, his innate spell would completely shatter.

"Run!"

Under the life or death crisis, Fayle felt as though he returned back to his acolyte days where he had to greet every Magus respectfully, before turning around and running away.

Dong Dong Dong Dong!

Hearing the approaching footsteps of the man wearing the black robes resounding in his ears, it made Fayle run even faster.

20 metres!

10 metres!

5 metres!

1 metres!

Fayle grabbed hold of the large main doors of the tall tower and dashed outside.

Peng! The door behind was closed shut. To Fayle's utter dismay, he actually appeared inside his bedroom once again. Also, there was only a 3 metres distance between him and the man now!

"Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! What's happening?"

Fayle gritted his teeth and continued to run, yet returning to his room every time.

Finally, tears and mucus ran down Fayle's face as he returned yet again to his room and closing the door shut tightly.

Dong! Dong! The knocking sounds that were the footsteps of the death god. Fayle felt that every step was stepping directly on his heart.

"Mentor! Papa! Mama! Save me!"

Fayle crouched behind the door, crying like a little child.

As if hearing his pants, the booming footsteps halted. Finally, when it was just one step away from the door, it disappeared....

Fayle was pale stricken as he waited for a good half hour before his trembling hands opened the door, only to see no one there.

"Hu...."

Fayle exhaled a large breath and collapsed to the ground as if all the bones had been removed from his body.

"It's finally gone! I must write a letter to Mentor tomorrow and let him

check what had transpired...”

Fayle closed the door.

Suddenly, just when he had turned around, a dishevelled face appeared right before him.

What came closely following it was a black metal hook!

Pu! This time, the black metal hook directly broke through Fayle’s defensive forcefield and gouged his right eyeball out.

The moment his eye was hooked out, black and red viscous liquid mixture flowed out.

The man seemed to be unsatisfied as he sent his hook at Fayle’s head again!

Bang! Fayle’s body was sent to the ground from the force. The metal hook bore through his brains deeply. Fayle was still unconsciously writhing before he lost all signs of life.

Brush!

Following wipe, the man in black robes immediately withdrew a greasy bone saw and began to expertly dissect Fayle’s corpse.

After the dissection, Fayle’s muscles had been completely stripped clean. The colour of it too turned even redder, revealing the veins of blood, similar to that found in the beef tenderloin!

Winding the time back to yesterday morning.

The black robed man knocked on the kitchen’s door of the tall tower, revealing a hideous smile. “Do you want to buy meat? I have good tenderloin steak for sale...”

.....

Several li away from Fayle’s tall tower, Leylin looked at a spell formation with a solemn expression.

In the centre of the formation, a black flame was flickering, in the heart of it was the scene of Fayle’s ending.

With the images continuously flashing by, Leylin stared at the image without blinking, mysteriously chanting at the same time.

Finally, after the black robed man killed Fayle and scoured his flesh clean, Leylin's expression loosened.

Pa! The black coloured spell formation collapsed.

The surroundings immediately quietened down and a dead silence followed after.

Dong Dong!

The black robed man inside the image earlier appeared in front of Leylin.

"You're here now?" Leylin seemed to have expected it, with no shocked expression on his face.

"Shihiohj" The black robed man let off several indiscernible words and charged towards Leylin.

Bang! The black metal hook was grabbed by a scaly palm.

Leylin faced the black robed man and could even see the crude construction of his facial features.

"Look into my eyes!" Leylin spoke gently with a hissing voice like that of a snake's.

The black robed man unconsciously looked into Leylin's eyes.

At this moment, there were some phenomenal changes in Leylin's eyes – both his eyes turned into vertical pupils, letting off the crystal glow like amber!

Innate Spell—Eye of Petrification!

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha! A grey-white colour extended from the man's face to his whole body.

Several seconds later, the black-robed man completely turned into a grey-white statue.

"Seize the chance!" Leylin picked up the grey statue and tossed it into

the heart of the black formation!

Crash! The stone statue shattered in pieces, from it grayish-white gases appeared as if wanting to form into a human figure.

“Dust to dust, earth to earth, return to where you came from!”

Leylin chanted in the ancient Byron language.

A black circular whirlpool suddenly appeared in the middle of the formation. With a huge suction force, it sucked in the grey-white gas in.

After the whirlpool disappeared, Leylin then heaved a sigh of relief and collapsed to the ground.

“Such a curse cannot be easily activated by anyone!” Leylin smiled wryly.

After destroying all traces of Clayde, Leylin hurried along the way as he brewed the Serenity Potion, finally suppressing the emotional fluctuations that Warlocks had.

However after some thought, he wanted to see things come to an end. So he decided to kill Fayle before escaping the area.

The Lilytell Family would definitely have a wanted list on him through the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, so what if he were to add another pursuer, the Purple-Gold Flower Family to it? Anyway, it was the wanted list put up by Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, so having one or two families chasing after him had no difference.

Furthermore, Leylin saw a Rank 1 curse spell inside the Book of Giant Serpent. It could completely kill Fayle with no one the wiser, and no trouble would come after him.

However, Leylin did not think that this curse was this malicious, it would even reverse the sorcery on the spell caster!

This left him with some lingering fear, especially after seeing the monstrous way Fayle was killed.

These Rank 1 Spell requirements were extremely harsh.

First of all, he had to cast a Darkness body and use the opponent's trace

of scent, if not it could not be casted.

Afterwards, it required one to know the basics of spirit bodies. Fortunately, Leylin had amassed some experience in Extreme Night City, so he picked it up rather quickly.

Finally, this curse had a limitation which was the distance. Moreover, it could only attack a target that had lower stats than the spell caster.

Chapter 130: Horse Carriage

The Book of Giant Serpent mentioned that the curse had had to have stats lower than the spell caster. If any one stat of the target is higher, the might of this curse would be reduced by more than half.

Leylin found out that once the curse has ended, the caster still had to face the wrath of a vengeful spirit which was summoned in the process.

It was absolutely ridiculous!

With so many prerequisites, and being only able to deal with targets with lower stats, finally having to suffer the backlash from a vengeful spirit!

In Leylin's opinion, this kind of curse wasn't very useful.

However, Fayle met this requirement just right.

He had just advanced and embarked on the simplest path. The various stats were lower than Leylin. Moreover, he had already collected his scent when he was with Bicky previously.

Adding on to the various reasons, Fayle had become Leylin's first sacrifice to practice the curse on.

"I always feel that there's something wrong with this curse, it's better to use it lesser in future!"

Leylin patted off the dust on his body.

"However, with the disappearance of the Great Magus Serholm, the people on South Coast who can recognise this curse are barely alive, no to mention finding out who the caster was. No matter how the Purple-Gold Flower Family investigates, they couldn't trace it back to me..."

If Leylin could avoid such troubles and remove all traces of himself, he would do so, never leaving behind any leads.

After the task was completed, Leylin left the Poolfield Kingdom.

.....

In the Inlan Dukedom, on a broad road, a black horse carriage continuously sped on it.

The wooden wheels which were galvanised by iron let off creaking sounds.

As there were no shock absorbing functions, the rise and fall of the carriage was extremely great, so the passenger inside the horse carriage did not have a good ride.

It seems that this rented horse carriage had all sorts of passengers on it. There was a white-bearded old man with his granddaughter, wanton women, and even those merchants wearing caps hugging onto their belongings tightly.

In their midst, there was a black cloaked youth.

The youth had pure black hair with some lustre on it. His handsome face had a radiant smile, which made him have a strange yet strong charisma!

This person naturally was Leylin.

After using the curse to kill Fayle, he no longer had any concerns, so he left the Poolfield Kingdom immediately.

Although the Zither Moon Mountain Plains was rather dangerous for acolytes, Leylin who was a Warlock that surpassed regular Rank 1 Magi treated it as a walk in his back garden. It was a place where he could roam around freely.

After arriving at the Inlan Dukedom, Leylin finally relaxed!

Ever since the armistice, there has been peace between the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the Sage Gotham Hut. However, with the increasing degree of hostility, even the powers of the secular realm were affected. There was news of this two great kingdoms going to war once again.

No mercy would be given to the two kingdoms' official Magi. Once spotted in enemy's territory, they would be viciously hunted down.

With much of the troubles passed, Leylin began to feel more relaxed. He abandoned the notion of ploughing through his travels as a lone wolf and

instead made use of secular methods to conduct his travels.

Since he did not opt to join the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy after his promotion, Leylin was not affected or restricted by the armistice. However, he was still in a precarious position.

As a betrayer of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and with no intention to join Sage Gotham Hut, he had to be careful while in their territory.

Blending amongst the regular humans seemed like a good way to travel.

The downside was that the traffic conditions while travelling with the plebeians were pretty bad.

A scowl crossed Leylin's face as he experienced the chaotic congestions and rancid odour emitted from the carriage.

If there was an alternative way to travel, he would have long ago alighted from this carriage.

Amidst the foul experience on board the carriage, Leylin noticed a child dressed pink seated opposite him and let out a brief smile.

The adolescent female child had a pair of sapphire-like eyes and milky white skin. She spotted Leylin smiling at her and smiled back friendly at Leylin.

The little girl's grandfather seated next to her spotted the interaction and immediately pulled her close to his side. He whispered words into the child's ear which caused her to hurriedly avoid Leylin's attention. Although hard to hear, it was most likely a warning against the dangers lurking outside.

Following which, the white-bearded grandfather stared menacingly into Leylin's eyes as a sign of warning.

Unaffected by the grandfather's hostility, Leylin let out a chuckle.

Leylin felt an aura of familiarity from the little girl. Although just 12 or 13 years of age, she was already exuding an odd amount of charm, causing passengers of the carriage to constantly steal glances at her.

Even Leylin was fascinated by the little girl.

After observing her for a little while more, Leylin came to the conclusion that she had a Warlock's bloodline!

The strength of Warlocks came from the bloodlines. Their descendants would also carry traces of their bloodline. However, it was extremely difficult to unearth that strength again.

For instance, this little girl's bloodline was already extremely thin. Moreover, there were no energy waves coming from her. She was the most regular of humans, not even an acolyte.

Also, the further away from the first generation Warlock, the bloodline would slowly thin out over the generations, finally turning into regular humans again.

However, in the second and third generations, there were still plenty of decent quality bloodline inherited.

Hence, Warlocks tend to reproduce often to establish their own family.

Leylin, for example, was a first generation bloodline. If he had any descendants, his children and grandchildren's bloodline would also have the strength of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent!

This scenario was somewhat similar to the Magi families, yet different.

The main thing that Magi wanted to pass on was their soul aptitude, every generation may be regular humans with no aptitude. Furthermore, although both the Warlocks and Magi held bloodlines in esteem, the Magi would not mind accepting fresh blood to raise the genes passed down in the family, which might sometimes exceed that of the ancestors!

However, Warlocks were different. They revered the purity of bloodlines, so they would protect the purity of the bloodlines and soul through the marriage of relatives. To them, if an outsider joins their family, not only would it increase the density of the bloodline, it would even contaminate their bloodline.

Moreover, the descendants inheriting the bloodline of Warlocks found it extremely difficult to advance into an official Magus. Unless they found a high-grade meditation technique that was suitable for their bloodline.

Under normal circumstances, these things were usually passed down from the first generation.

However, once the density of the bloodline thins out, or if the inheritance of the high-grade meditation technique stopped, it was often the start of a Warlock family's decline.

When a Magus family declines, there was the possible chance of their descendants bringing it back to glory. However, it was extremely difficult for Warlock families to do the same.

Unless the descendant found the original source of bloodline, or through some other methods to replenish the strength of bloodlines!

In the Central Continent, there were 3 schools of thoughts. Families consisted of either those who revered high-grade meditation techniques, those with bloodlines or some other assortment of the magisterium. This were the 3 main representatives in the continent.

This information and news naturally came from the Book of Giant Serpent written by the Great Magus Serholm.

From some information that the Great Magus Serholm had revealed, he was most likely in the central continent, yet for some unknown reason, he went to the South Coast.

As Leylin was a Rank 1 Warlock, he was extremely sensitive to his kind.

On that old geezer's body, Leylin could not detect a single trace of the bloodline.

It was very evident that he was not the biological grandparent of that little girl.

However, this old geezer was not any regular human. Leylin detected a trace of acolyte's energy waves from him. Looking at the might, it belonged to a Level 2 Acolyte.

"Interesting! A housekeeper? Or adoption?" Leylin smiled 'apologetically' and continued with his pondering.

What was undeniable was that Leylin had an extreme interest in his

same kind.

Although it was most likely that no high-grade meditation techniques could appear on her. Even if there was Leylin would not use it, unless she was had the bloodline of snake types.

However, as the descendant of another Warlock, Leylin had a very good comparison sample on how to unearth his own strength from the bloodline.

Moreover, he wished to try and see if he could extract the blood essence from this girl and purify the bloodline. So that he could obtain another ancient creature's bloodline.

The other party's destination was also the Great Canyon Margaret, which coincided with Leylin's plans, so he naturally dispelled the thought of travelling alone.

As for the white bearded old geezer beside the little girl, he often saw Leylin sneaking glances at his granddaughter, even having a smile that seemed to harbour malicious intentions. So naturally his expression was not too pleasant.

However, he did not discover Leylin's identity, only treating him as a mere human.

After the advancement previously, Leylin spent much time and effort to have the A.I. Chip optimise his shapeshifting ability again. The effect was greater than before, although he did not have the information from an official Magus, Leylin knew that this old geezer could not discern of his shapeshifting ability after activating it.

Right now, he had not yet completely know how to make use of this little girl.

Should he abduct her directly and obtain the blood? Or conduct some experiments while observing her at the side?

After all, he did not know if the backing of this little girl was a Warlock family or not. Although this possibility wasn't great, Leylin still did not wish to take the risk.

However, it seemed like he could unravel the mysteries very soon!

The corner of Leylin's lips curled up.

After so many days of observation, he realised that the old geezer was mostly frowning as if he was riddled with a great load on his mind.

Moreover, with the passing of each day, he was evidently becoming more impatient, as he hurriedly requested for the horse carriage to move faster.

After being rejected, he even had the plan to leave the party. However, it seemed that he recalled of something, so he could only put up with it and continue on the horse carriage.

"It seems like this journey would not be too boring!"

Leylin was only an acolyte previously, so naturally he did not wish for trouble. If he had not yet advanced into a Warlock, he would definitely be the first to leave the horse carriage if he met this acolyte who seemed to be running away from something.

However, everything was different now. In the South Coast, Rank 1 Magi were great powers, much less to mention himself who was a little stronger than newly advanced Magi.

Chapter 131: Pursuers

Previously, Leylin held himself back from taking action, not because he was afraid of doing something, but because he didn't want to be inconvenienced.

However, this girl in front of him had something that interested him. Furthermore, once his research was a success, he would greatly benefit from it.

It was only natural, that he now intended to take action.

However, for prudence's sake, he still chose to lay low on the sidelines and observe the strength of his enemies first.

If their might was average, he would definitely not be modest. He would immediately abduct or coerce the girl to follow him and not be afraid of the pursuers.

If they were too strong, he could only give up. In any case, the world was so big, and she was not the only one with a Warlock's bloodline. There might be very few of them on the South Coast, but there were definitely many in the Central Continent.

Several days later, the horse carriage entered the district of York City.

This was already along the borders of the Inlan Dukedom. As for the old man, his anxiety had already intensified to the maximum. Most of the time he would stay on the horse carriage, seldom leaving it. He even closely guarded the little girl by his side, as if being afraid of something.

The hazy night had dyed the sky an overcast grey. Only somewhere far away in the horizon was there a little light.

The horse carriage stopped by the roadside, and the weary passengers began to alight, and then sat in a circle around a bonfire for refreshments and rest.

After so many days of travel, the people in the horse carriage also got close with each other. Especially that little merchant, who took out a flute and played an upbeat tune and the beautiful woman beside him followed

suit by performing a gorgeous dance.

There were several middle-aged men who took out wine flasks from their sacks and walked forward to the beautiful woman to ingratiate themselves. As for that woman, she chuckled, seemingly not rejecting these suitors.

After the atmosphere reached a climax, the people began to sing and dance. Even the horse keeper gulped down several mouthfuls of strong wine and had a tinge of red at the end of his nose.

Leylin reclined against the trunk of a tree, his hand holding a wine flask from which he drank occasionally. He shot a glance inside the horse carriage and grinned.

Although the sky had already dimmed tonight, the old geezer still urged the carriage driver to move on.

However, travelling in the middle of the night was extremely dangerous. Hence, this suggestion was rejected by carriage driver and all of the passengers.

That old geezer's expression then was really a sight to be seen.

Furthermore, tonight the old geezer had decided to stay within the horse carriage, not even letting his granddaughter leave half a step away from the horse carriage. Ugly rumours had already begun to have gossiped amongst the travellers.

However, Leylin knew that this pair who pretended to be a grandfather with his granddaughter was afraid of pursuers, that's why they hid in the horse carriage. Looking on at the situation, the pursuers were almost arriving too.

No, they were already here. Leylin turned his head, and with the A.I. Chip, he saw several acolytes, who did not hold back their energy waves radiation, hiding in a dark corner.

Looking at the strength of the energy waves, there were all Level 3 Acolytes.

Bang!

A red arrow was released and it directly shot through the brains of a muscled, half-naked man who was dancing by the fire.

“Ahhh!” The blood splattered onto a woman nearby. Her expression turned sluggish, only letting off an ear piercing scream several seconds later.

“Bandits!” “Help!” Various cries sounded in the camp.

As for the carriage driver, he very quickly donned a leather armour and crouched, hugging his head and not moving at all.

The horse carriage providers had a promise with the nearby bandits, that they would only rob the passengers. As for the drivers, the bandits would often let them go scot-free – after all, they would not have much money on them.

However, tonight the carriage driver’s plans were in vain.

Xiu! Another red arrow was shot, directly piercing through the driver’s neck! He clutched his neck with both hands, his eyes popping out and frothing blood at the corner of his lips. His mouth gaped open and close for air as if wanting to enjoy the freshness of the air one last time before he died.

“A sharpening spell added on the arrow? Interesting!”

Beside the chaotic campsite, Leylin was still reclining against the tree. He gulped down another mouthful of wine, his expression appearing indifferent.

At this moment, his lax behaviour was vastly different from the current situation, yet nobody was paying him any attention.

The second arrow obviously caused greater chaos within the camp. Be they man or woman, young or old – they were all wildly running away.

Several minutes later, the campsite that had once had a lively and jovial atmosphere, now only had a crackling bonfire and several wine flasks which had been forsaken.

Crash! 3 figures wearing black robes appeared from within the forest.

Leylin's outstanding vision allowed him to see clearly the appearance of this trio.

There were two men and a woman, all of them were of middling years. The woman had applied a very thick layer lipstick, which seemed like she had just drank a mouthful of blood.

These 3 were obviously not students of an academy. Their attire were rather casual, however, there was an image of a dodo-bird stitched on their robes, seemingly a family emblem.

These were the acolytes nurtured by a family.

Some of them from Magi families, who had poor aptitudes, could not be accepted into academies, so they could only be nurtured by their families themselves.

Most of them could not even advance to a Level 3 Acolyte, so the majority of them remained as a Level 1 Acolyte or Level 2 Acolyte.

These 3 who were able to advance to Level 3 Acolytes, either had good aptitudes or were expelled from an academy or had graduated.

"Miles, come out! We know you're inside the horse carriage!"

The three of them took on a triangular formation to surround the horse carriage, and a silver-haired man laughed smugly.

Boom!

What replied him was a burning red fireball.

Pa! As the middle-aged man dodged the fireball, the horse carriage suddenly shattered and a black figure with a smaller figure wrapped on his lower body rapidly sneaked past the gap that the middle-aged man exposed.

"Thinking of escaping?" The woman smirked and hurriedly chanted an incantation, casting a speed reducing spell.

A layer of murky green shone on the black figure and his speed dropped

drastically.

“Xiu!” The eyes of the third person who held a bow flashed, and immediately he fired another red arrow.

Pu! The arrow bore into the left chest of the black figure, drawing fresh blood from it. The black figure groaned and fell to the ground, revealing the face of the white-bearded geezer.

“Run! Why don’t you keep running?”

The man, who had been the target of that fireball shot previously, was in a miserable state. Seeing the old geezer on the ground, his expression turned malevolent and he drew out a curved blade, hacking at the old geezer Mile’s left leg.

Ka-Cha! The old geezer’s left leg was immediately chopped off.

“Ahhh!” The little girl fainted immediately after having blood spurting on her.

“Such a beautiful little girl, killing her outright is such a pity!” The man who held the bow licked his lips, revealing a lusty grin. “Why don’t you let me have some fun first?”

“It’s your call, we still have plenty of time!”

It was very obvious that these three acolytes did not have any regard for the old geezer, Miles, at all. They were extremely relaxed and had their guard down.

In fact, this was the reality. Miles was only a Level 3 Acolyte and the little girl was not even an acolyte. Such a line-up can be easily destroyed by just sending one Level 3 Acolyte.

It was only for added assurance that 3 such acolytes had been sent.

When the bowman grinned lewdly, a lazy voice sounded.

“I say, you guys seem to have forgotten about me!”

Leylin flung the flask away and announced himself in a crisp voice.

“You... You actually didn’t run away?” The other male acolyte was

somewhat shocked. Normally, wasn't the reaction of people, after seeing someone get killed, to run away? Much less to mention encountering magicians of the sorts.

"Just right, I wish to loosen my muscles after pursuing this old geezer. Leave him to me!"

The only female acolyte among them looked at the handsome Leylin and her eyes flashed. Her mouth gaped open and close with the heavy lipstick as if wanting to swallow Leylin immediately.

Right now, Leylin's charm factor had increased significantly after advancing to a Warlock. Along the way, he met many girls who cast flirtatious glances at him. However, meeting this kind of elderly woman, he felt rather disgusted.

"My apologies, but I don't have any interest towards aunties!"

Leylin spoke very 'sincerely', turning the face of this female acolyte red.

"Brat! I will let you feel the most unbearable pain on earth. An hour later, if you don't prostrate yourself like a dog in front of me, you will have my admiration!"

The female acolyte looked at Leylin as if she wanted to bite a piece of meat off him that very instant.

"No need for that, if you don't prostrate yourself like a dog right now in front of me, you will have my admiration!"

Leylin's eyes flashed icily as he dispelled the concealment spell. An immense force field immediately surrounded the area of the horse carriage.

"Of... Official Magus!" The eyes of the male leader of the trio popped out as he collapsed feebly onto the ground.

"Lo... Lord! Please pardon our accidental intrusion!"

The bowman acolyte, too, no longer had any interest in defiling the little girl. He immediately knelt in front of Leylin, cursing the damned bitch thousands and tens of thousands of times.

“How is it?”

Leylin looked at that female acolyte with a toying expression.

“Lo... Lo... Lo...” The female acolyte also fell to the ground, her jaws trembling, not being able to speak a single word.

“Lord, we are from the Yale Family... Our family head is also an official Magus!”

The leader noticed that Leylin’s gaze was hostile, immediately bringing up the backing of his group.

“Yale Family?” Leylin shook his head, indicating that he did not recognise this name.

Leylin had already scrutinised the large families around the Poolfield Kingdom before and did not recall any Yale Family of the sorts.

“A.I. Chip, scan database!”

[Beep! Yale Family: Situated in the Denisque Province of the Inlan Dukedom. The family head’s name is Sam Yale. Originally an acolyte from the Sage Gotham Hut, he advanced to an official Magus at thirty years of age. Information source: History of Magi families, page 1928!]

An extremely simple introduction. From the information recorded on the A.I. Chip, it seemed like a newly founded Magus family which was completely reliant on a Magus who had shockingly advanced as an acolyte.

It was far from being comparable with the Lilytell Family and only slightly stronger than Bicky’s family. There was not much backing and easily classified by the Magus World as the nouveau rich.

“Wait! Wait! I have the secret imprint of our family’s head!”

Seeing that Leylin was about to take action, the leader immediately shouted and ripped his clothes apart.

Chapter 132: Secret Imprint

“The secret imprint?”

Leylin nodded his head and stopped in his motions.

This so-called technique for the secret imprint was a tool that official Magi use for communication.

Every newly advanced official Magus would be able to design a special sign to represent themselves. In future, they could leave their secret imprint behind for communication.

As for some Magi, they would even brand it on their family members or slaves to represent the authority given.

Leylin had crafted an imprint for himself. It was an inverted triangle enclosed in a circle. On the triangle was a black serpent that snaked to the top

As for the leader's chest, an image of blue dodo bird's head was flashing with light.

It seemed that initiating the communication to the head required a tremendous amount of Spiritual Force and Magic power. Just a few minutes later, the leader's face at once became deathly pale.

Fortunately, right before the leader was unable to endure any longer, the blue light shone brightly and a blue dodo bird flew out from his chest, and perched on his shoulder.

“Sulley, is there something you want to see me about?”

The dodo bird seemed not to have noticed Leylin and immediately questioned the leader.

“He... Head, it's like this...” That leader hurriedly whispered to the dodo bird and briefly updated him on the happenings.

The secret imprint had its limitations and could only project the voices without images. Moreover, without the aid of the communications tower, once the distance was too great, even the voices could not be sent across.

“Hello, young expert!” The dodo bird greeted Leylin.

“It’s an honour to meet the head of the Yale Family, Sam Yale!” Leylin opened his mouth, his voice gruff and hoarse. It was obviously altered with the help the A.I. Chip.

“According to those family members that were dumb enough to offend you, I apologise on their behalf...” The blue dodo bird already flew back into the leader’s chest, turning into a tattoo that seemed to be alive.

“They actually dared to offend me, an official Magus. Hence, they must pay the price!” Murderous intent was contained in Leylin’s voice.

“They?” The dodo bird paused, before speaking again, “I can act on their behalf and compensate you...”

“Compensation? Leylin hooted with laughter. “Are you mocking me?”

“Not good, run!” The leader did not think that Leylin did not give the head any face in the slightest, as he hurriedly retreated.

“After offending me you still want to leave?”

Leylin’s eyes turned bloodshot and several red fireballs were cast, turning the three who could not dodge in time into a pile of ashes.

The might of acolytes, in front of official Magi, were as brittle as paper.

As for the secret imprint which was a communication device, naturally it was unable to transmit any attacks.

By abusing the limitations of the secret imprint, Leylin chose to kill them.

Anyway, his voice was concealed by the alteration of the A.I. Chip, so Sam would never be able to find him.

Keeping these acolytes alive, instead, would easily bring him trouble.

Moreover, he did not wish to remain in the Inlan Dukedom. Once he leaves the place, the other party would not be able to do anything about it either.

Walking towards the grandparent and grandchild pair, the little girl was

still unconscious, having several tears on her face.

“Lord...Lord Magus!”

A shocked expression filled the old geezer’s face. Obviously, he never thought that this person who rode the same horse carriage was actually an official Magus.

Leylin squatted down and examined the old geezer’s wounds

The injury was serious. A commoner would definitely die from this wound. Even if this old geezer was a Level 2 Acolyte, he could survive for an additional 10 hours maximum.

Of course, Leylin could cure the old geezer but he would lose some of his precious herbs and medicines in the process. Moreover, the old geezer didn’t have a Warlock’s bloodline so Leylin was very hesitant to treat him.

However, what has to be done has to be done.

“Drink this! It will make you feel better!” Leylin handed a vial of vitality potion to the old geezer. After which, he headed over to wake the little girl up.

“Grandpa Miles!” As soon as she woke up, the little girl shouted, and threw herself at Miles and began to weep in sorrow.

After drinking the potion, the old geezer’s face revealed a flash of life. Momentarily, his spirits were up as well. This potion was merely a stimulant. It was much cheaper than the actual cure, so Leylin was willing to expend such a cheap potion.

“Good child!”

Mile stretched out his wrinkled and quivering hands to gently stroke the child’s head.

“This... This Lord Magus, could you send her to the Great Canyon Margaret, to where Marian is....”

The old geezer begged Leylin earnestly.

“I can!” Leylin pondered in silence for a moment before nodding his

head to agree.

“Many thanks! You will forever be the friend of the Langster Family!”

The old geezer grabbed the little girl’s hands and instructed, “From today onwards, listen to this Lord Leylin. Remember, you must obey every word, do you understand?”

As if expending all of his energy remaining, blackish red blood flowed from the old man’s lips the moment he finished talking.

“I...I understand...” The little girl sobbed silently.

The old geezer smiled, gratified at seeing the girl agree, before closing his eyes for eternity.

“Grandpa Miles! Grandpa Miles!”

The little girl cried in sorrow.

Leylin stood by a side and waited for a dozen minutes. When the girl stopped sobbing, he then asked, “We had better bury your Grandpa Miles! Also, what is your name?”

“Ivy! Sir!” The little girl’s voice was hoarse, yet it brimmed with respect.

Although Ivy was not an acolyte, but she, who grew up in a Magus family from childhood, naturally knew what being a Magus entailed.

An hour later, Leylin brought the little girl Ivy and looked at a newly constructed gravestone, making their final tribute in silence.

After the old geezer’s disclosure and the little girl’s own narration, Leylin finally understood the Langster family’s backing.

This Langster family was very small. Rumours have it that they held the inheritance to an incomplete meditation technique.

However, the thinning of the Warlock bloodline and the lack of an official Magus has made the family a lowly rated one in the Magus World.

Two hundred years ago, the incomplete meditation technique was lost in an unfortunate accident.

The limitations of Warlocks were in their bloodline, as they could only

cultivate in meditation techniques suitable for themselves. Normal mind runes constructions of acolytes had no use for them.

Therefore, it was unavoidable that this family, which had produced no Magus, had deteriorated over the years.

If not for the few generations of heads standing their ground and accepting a few orphans to undergo acolyte training, it was very likely that they did not even have an acolyte in the family now.

As for Miles, he was one of these orphan acolytes, tasked as a housekeeper of the Langster Family.

Just a month ago, the Yale family who was coveting the Langster family, declared war on it.

Apart from Ivy, all of the family members were killed in that war. As for Miles, he fought his way out to bring Ivy away, preparing to seek asylum with a friend of Ivy's parents in the Great Canyon Margaret.

Hence, Ivy who was in Leylin's hands was the final bloodline of the Langster family.

Of course, after knowing this news, there was an indescribable feeling stemming within Leylin's heart.

However, after seeing the Langster family who had Warlock origins deteriorate into such a state, he felt like a fox grieving [1] when the rabbit dies.

Of course, he would not let these emotions fuel his desire for revenge to the Langster family. However, if the despicable leader of the Yale family happened to be in his way, that would be a different story.

"Let's go!" Leylin grabbed Ivy's little hand and set out towards his new destination

He prepared to bring the little girl to the Great Canyon Margaret. It wasn't that he suddenly had a change of heart, but he was planning something else.

First of all, some experiments required Ivy to coordinate with him of her

own accord in order to achieve the best results.

After that, the Great Canyon Margaret was one of the areas that Leylin had to go, so it was not troublesome. Furthermore, if Leylin discovered that Ivy had some other uses along the way, he would not hand Ivy over to Marian, for sure.

Leylin did not eliminate any possibilities of doing good within his means to increase his reputation. However, it had to be under the conditions that it would not come across his personal benefits in any way.

Even if someone were to beat him to death, Leylin would not commit such a foolish thing like altruism.

However, if he could accomplish some things effortlessly and obtain a positive reputation, he would be very willing to do it.

From Leylin's perspective, reputation was also a form of resource, a type of benefit.

However, in the hearts of different people, the gravity that people had towards fame versus their personal benefits were different. And in their eyes, the importance of fame was ranked low on their list.

"One more point, I have some interest in your family's bloodline. I require you to coordinate with me on some experiments, do you understand?"

As the sky turned darker, an emerald green field of view appeared in Leylin's eyes. It allowed him to see even better than daytime.

When he spoke, Leylin felt Ivy's hands quiver noticeably,

"As you wish! Lord! "

Ivy replied a good while later with a shaky voice.

"I adore intelligent and obedient children!" Ivy's obedience and maturity left Leylin pleasantly surprised as he originally thought he had to spend some effort to handle her.,

He gently stroked Ivy on the head and carried her in his arms.

“Mas... Master...” Ivy gently called out in a voice as small as the buzz of a mosquito.

“If you cannot see the road clearly in this dark night, I can help!”

Feeling the trembling of the little body in his bosom, Leylin smiled and patted Ivy on the back. With an increase in his pace, the pair quickly disappeared into the darkness.

“This kind of vision... is it that of a serpent?”

Leylin’s vision was affected by an emerald green tint.

Even though it was dark at night, Leylin could see everything.

Somewhere tens of meters away, there was a dog-like creature with red heat emitting from its body.

It somewhat resembled heat imaging.

“Turns out that the so-called path of Warlocks is to continuously tap into the origin of the bloodline and the process of remodeling of one’s body...”

Leylin was somewhat enlightened “Looks like I have to spend more time on my transfiguration...”

*

[1] [TL Note: (兔死狐悲) If the rabbit dies, the fox grieves. It means to have sympathy with a like-minded person in distress.]

Chapter 133: Elemental Essence

Conversion

In a somewhat dilapidated campsite.

Erected in the middle of the campsite was a tent made from cowhide, and it had a sturdy look to it.

Beside the tent was a small fire, where bright yellow flames continuously lapped against a metal pot hanging above it.

A broth that contained some pieces of mushroom and beef-jerky was boiling in this metal pot.

Around the fire, there were many pieces of forked branches, which was used to grill several small fishes. There was also some barbecued meat, which frothed with tiny bubbles as the golden-yellow grease continuously dripped down, while the aroma of sizzling meat permeated the air.

The little blonde girl sat by the side, looking at the piping hot food, involuntarily gulping down her saliva.

Thereafter, she turned her head to look to the side.

There, on a patch of grass, a handsome, black-haired man sat cross-legged on a white sackcloth as he practiced meditation.

This person was, naturally, Leylin.

After bringing Ivy along for quite some distance, he initiated a break to rest awhile.

Although Leylin, with his current Vitality, would not be tired even after journeying for 7 days and nights, the little girl would definitely not be able to keep up.

Moreover, he had to take out some time every day to cultivate with his high-grade meditation technique.

The meditation technique that he had gotten was the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique that was compatible with his bloodline. Adding on

to the A.I. Chip's purification of the blood essence, his progress in meditation was extremely fast.

"Eyes are the windows of the soul, by concentrating your sight with the Kemoyin's Pupil, you will rediscover yourself – Norco Curadu Sfar!"

This was what Leylin saw repeatedly at the start of the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique.

And now, Leylin shut both his eyes and felt that he was staring right into a pair of vertical pupils that were amber-like.

Darkness with burning flames seemed to engulf his body.

As for Ivy who had been watching Leylin, she realised that a black and red mist emerged from Leylin's body. This mist revolved around Leylin, not dissipating.

The strands of mist began to converge, forming the shape of a small snake, coiling around Leylin, at the same time spitting out its scarlet tongue.

The small snake continuously roved around Leylin, finally coiling on Leylin's face, turning into a strange mask. A wave of darkness energy particles was continuously absorbed by the mask.

A dozen minutes later, the mask shattered, turning into black gases and threaded into Leylin through the seven orifices.

"A.I. Chip! Scan my current data!" Leylin opened his eyes wide and commanded in silence.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 28.2, Magic Power: 28 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

[Host completed a level of high-grade meditation technique. Spiritual Force increased by 0.005. Elemental essence conversion: Darkness. Progress: 1%]

"Every time I meditate there will be a definite increase in the Spiritual

Force, it's not bad already!"

Leylin nodded his head in satisfaction.

Increasing the Spiritual Force of magicians would only get more difficult in the long run. Especially for official Magi, the meditation techniques they used as acolytes were completely irrelevant now. If they did not have high-grade meditation techniques, they could only rely on external resources to increase their Spiritual Force.

Resources which were able to create an effect on official Magi were extremely rare even on the South Coast. Hence, after advancing into a Rank 1 Magus, many of the Magi found it extremely difficult to advance again.

Only those who had cultivated with the high-grade meditation techniques would be able to maintain their progress.

However, every level of high-grade meditation techniques was extremely challenging. The first level was still alright. However, after that, every level required tens of hundreds of years.

As for the special characteristics of high-grade meditation technique, they would only get more difficult the further one is. According to Leylin's guess, after the third level, a Magus required thousands of years to advance to the next level!

Hence, many Magi could not advance in time before their lifespan was up, and died from old age just like that.

"A.I. Chip, calculate how long more I need to reach the criteria to advance and become a Rank 2 Warlock, given my current progress!"

[Beep! Mission establishing, gather Host's data, simulating conjecture...]

[With the Host's current stats, estimated to reach the requirements of advancement into a Rank 2 Warlock in 14 years and 7 months!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"That's quite long! However, compared to those regular Magi who cannot advance in tens of hundreds of years, it seems like my current

situation is pretty good!” Leylin’s brows furrowed but quickly relaxed.

From the graphical analysis made by the A.I. Chip, the increase in Spiritual Force that the high-grade meditation technique gives will also begin to slow down after reaching a certain extent. Moreover, the elemental essence conversion progress will only get slower as he progresses. This was the reason stopping Leylin from advancing quickly.

According to the A.I. Chip’s estimates and the Book of Giant Serpent implicit divulging, Rank 2 Magus advancement criteria was to have a Spiritual Force of at least 80, and the elemental essence conversion to be over 80%.

These two conditions alone have stumped many genius acolytes before.

The Spiritual Force requirement was still alright. Whether it was about cultivating in high-grade meditation techniques or finding large amounts of resources which could stimulate the Spiritual Force, it could still be solved over time.

However, elemental essence conversion was a different story altogether. First of all, if the Magus chose the wrong energy particles, then he would find it extremely difficult to exceed an elemental essence conversion of 50%. To be specific, one has to first choose the energy particle with the highest elemental affinity to get the elemental essence conversion to over 80%.

Moreover, this was only the most basic criteria. To some heirs of large families and true geniuses, they would waste their potential if they advanced with an 80% elemental essence conversion. Only by getting a 90% elemental essence conversion and above, would they face fewer bottlenecks while advancing to become a Rank 2 Magus.

These were all mentioned in the Kemoyin’s Pupil.

In addition, some regular Magi had to solve the problem of obtaining a Rank 2 spell model. If they were unable to find one which complements their Rank 1 innate spell, mishaps will occur during the inscribing of their Rank 2 spell model, such as having their brains exploding.

Hence, those magicians who used Grine Water with spell models to advance, their path in future would become extremely narrow.

Although his progress was extremely fast already, Leylin still felt somewhat pressured deep down.

He had utterly offended the Lilytell Family. This was a large-scale family with the family head existence that could rival the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's chairman.

That was a Rank 2 Magus or an expert close to that level!

As for Leylin right now, once he was to meet someone like that, his only outcome would be death!

Advancing into a Rank 1 Warlock only let him have the simplest form of self-preservation. To be able to live free in the future in broad daylight, he had to at least be a Rank 2 Warlock to be able to handle the pursuers from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

After having access to the high-grade meditation technique, Leylin realised that magicians who cultivated with the high-grade meditation techniques also required some resources.

This was because some precious resources could increase the progress of meditation.

There were several ingredients that could complement his meditation – that was mentioned in the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique.

Hence, he was somewhat impatient to hurry and reach the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, situated within the domain of Light Magi.

It had the largest, free trade market and collection centre. Leylin could definitely rely on it to get his resources and improve his progress quickly.

“Lo... Lord... The broth is ready...”

Seeing that Leylin had finished with his meditation today, Ivy hurriedly scooped a bowl of broth and brought it to Leylin.

“You have worked hard!”

Leylin smiled at Ivy and took the bowl.

Ivy looked at Leylin's unfathomable eyes that had endless depths and stared at them blankly, her eyes lifeless.

"This is..." Leylin had a slight shock and immediately reached out a hand glowing in white light as he tapped Ivy's forehead.

"Lord! Just now..." Very soon Ivy recovering, yet she did not dare to look into Leylin's eyes again.

"This is a circumstance of mine which I did not restrain properly earlier. In the future do not be this careless again..." Leylin understood what had just transpired.

It was the result that the A.I. Chip indicated earlier, elemental essence conversion progress: 1%.

When Magi continued to improve their progress of elemental essence conversion, the Spiritual Force radiated will bring about a strong power which was attributed to the elements.

Ivy losing her bearings earlier was considered as a mild effect.

If Leylin had had an elemental essence conversion of 50% and above, and by not restraining himself, in that situation Ivy would most likely have been attacked by the Darkness energy particles and thus would have become a shrivelled corpse

As for different elemental energy particles, the final elemental conversion would also be reflected differently.

For example: if a Magus chose the Ice energy particles as the attribute to cultivate with, he would be able to freeze the Spiritual Force of anyone who stares into the said Magus's eyes.

As for those who cultivated in Fire energy particles, enemies who probed their Spiritual Force would be burnt, even suffering from a backlash.

Leylin cultivated in the Darkness energy particles, which was emphasized more towards the aspect of a person's Spiritual Force and soul. In later stages, if regular humans were to come into contact with his

high-density elemental essence conversion, their soul would immediately perish, their physical bodies decomposing into a shrivelled corpse.

“Sorr...sorry!” Ivy lifted her skirt and bowed, hurriedly moving out of the way.

Seeing that the girl was unharmed, Leylin nodded his head and poured the meat broth into his mouth.

The warm savoury meat broth laced with bites of fresh mushroom excited Leylin’s palette.

“This tastes pretty good! I guess you have not eaten yet too?”

Leylin looked at Ivy, now with his eyes back to normal there was no chance of causing unintended harm anymore.

“Yes!”

Ivy softly replied. She helped herself to some dry rations and a bowl of broth. Together with Leylin, they feasted.

Leylin looked at Ivy and let out the slightest sigh of relief.

If this was the past, Ivy would surely be treated like a princess by her own family.

However, this present way of living by roughing it out in the open would surely help her to mature quickly.

“After you are done eating, come find me in my tent. I need a sample of your blood!”

Leylin gobbled his food quickly and said to Ivy.

The underlying reason he saved Ivy was not due to kindness but to use her Warlock’s bloodline for his research.

Chapter 134: Upgrade

Out in the wilderness, the night was freezing cold. Even the blazing bonfire was unable to dispel the chill in the air.

Inside the tent, however, it was much warmer – enough to make one feel slumberous.

Leylin waited for a few minutes and saw Ivy's silhouette shivering as she slowly got into the tent.

You could tell she was very nervous, her hands clutched tightly to her skirt hems, exposing her pale white ankles.

Fear was inscribed on a pair of beautiful eyes.

But it was as if her body was controlled by someone, as she advanced towards Leylin, step by step.

“Don't worry! It's very simple to take a sample, and it will not cause you any harm!” Leylin said, to try and pacify her.

“Please pull up your sleeve!”

Upon hearing Leylin's words, Ivy hesitated for a moment. She then pulled up her sleeve, revealing a length of her jade-white arms.

“It's going to hurt a little, but don't be afraid!”

Leylin took out a huge needle-like item from behind him and spoke gently to comfort the little girl.

Unfortunately, the little girl started to tremble even more severely.

With the girl's arm in one hand, Leylin stuck the needle into the exposed vein on her arm.

Ivy's face winced when the needle entered her vein as if she was about to cry but still forced herself to stay strong.

After drawing enough blood from Ivy, Leylin sent chased the little girl back to her own tent.

“Why does it feel like I was bullying a little girl?”

Leylin rubbed his chin as he looked at the needle in his hand.

No matter what, it was unsettling being on the receiving end of a “You bullied me” look given by a little girl.

“A.I. Chip, begin the experiment, and prepare the microscope...”

After being in a daze for several seconds, Leylin came to his senses and his expression turned solemn. His slender hands began to move expertly like butterflies treading and dancing through flowers.

Next morning, Leylin saw a pink liquid within the vulcanised tube and his expression looked unclear.

“A.I Chip, scan!” A blue light glowed within Leylin’s eyes, falling onto the test-tube.

[Beep! Detected a trace of ancient creature’s bloodline in the drop of blood. Pala Night Hawk! Unable to purify further!]

The A.I. Chip ended its feedback, turning Leylin’s face darker.

Ivy did carry a trace of an ancient bloodline, a pity that the inheritance of the Pala Night Hawk bloodline ends with her. The traces had already thinned to the absolute minimum and only a bit of aura could be extracted from her blood but it did not have many uses.

“From this density, even if Ivy was completely exsanguinated, or made to bleed some blood from time to time, it wouldn’t be enough to even purify a single drop of the pure ancient bloodline.”

However, Leylin did not feel particularly disappointed or anything similar to disappointment.

It wasn’t that he would be successful with every single experiment of his. However, if one doesn’t even try, there will be no chances of success.

He had learnt this lesson back in his previous life.

“Moreover, this bloodline that carries a trace of the ancient creature’s aura, adding on with some of the broken magic artifacts pieces I’ve gotten in the secret plane, they could aid in the modification of the Fallen Star Pendant...”

A notion rose in Leylin's mind.

The Fallen Star Pendant was only a low-grade magic artifact which was useful back in his days as an acolyte. However, for Leylin now it was somewhat of little value.

The A.I. Chip had been given the task of researching the possibilities of upgrading the Fallen Star Pendant, and now it seemed to have borne some fruits.

However, Leylin was a Warlock now, if he was able to add some power of the bloodlines on top of the other ingredients needed for the upgrade, it would definitely achieve a better potential!

"A.I. Chip, establish this mission as a subtask: calculate the possibility of adding Ivy's bloodline into the Fallen Star Pendant!"

[Beep! Mission established, classified in a subfolder under the mission of upgrading the Fallen Star Pendant!]

The A.I. Chip intoned promptly.

Although he was unable to purify the ancient bloodline, but he had obtained an ingredient that could complement the upgrade of the Fallen Star Pendant. So Leylin felt that he had reaped a huge benefit and hence his mood was uplifted, too.

The next morning, he even greeted Ivy during breakfast, which was something that he seldom did. This caused the little girl to be confused and out of sorts. Seeing this scene, Leylin laughed inwardly.

After eating breakfast, Leylin brought the little girl and carried on with the journey.

He even bought a horse carriage while making a stop at a town, putting out the misery of the little girl, who had had to walk all along.

The reason why he did this was not because of kindheartedness. It was because the little girl provided him with blood every day, and while Leylin brewed some potions to replenish the blood, her mental state did not seem very well as her face was as pale as dead people.

After purchasing the horse carriage, Leylin led his life even more leisurely. He would journey when the sun was up, and at night, he would continue to extract the essence from the Pala Night Hawk bloodline to upgrade the Fallen Star Pendant.

“Dawn’s Peak! According to our speed, we should be able to reach the Great Canyon Margaret tomorrow!”

Leylin pointed to a mountain which peak was amongst the clouds as he spoke to Ivy behind him.

“... ”Ivy looked at the landmark in front of her and clutched her knees in silence.

His eyelids hung low, not knowing if it was because of the fears of what the future would bring, or because of bewilderment.

“The ingredients gathered are now sufficient. I will upgrade the Fallen Star Pendant tonight!” thought Leylin.

Naturally, he controlled the pace of the journey, so he was able to obtain enough blood right before reaching the Great Canyon Margaret tomorrow.

In the middle of the night.

The surroundings were dark and serene, and from time to time the sounds of insects and howls of wolves could be heard.

Ivy was in a deep sleep within the tent beside the horse carriage.

As for her who was in deep slumber, her eyelids twitched continuously, as if dreaming of a nightmare.

Seeing her in this manner, Leylin heaved a sigh of relief and returned to the horse carriage.

“A.I. Chip, simulate the start of the experiment!”

Leylin set up an illuminating spell and lit the interiors of the horse carriage.

In the middle, several wood boxes were set up in a flat platform with some apparatus displayed on it.

In the middle of all was a silver grey cross, with several fragments of jewels on it.

This was the original shape of the Fallen Star Pendant. Ever since he had advanced into a rank 1 Warlock, he had rarely used it.

The Fallen Star Pendant's physical and magic defense were both valid for at most 20 degrees. As for any rank 1 spell cast by an official Magus, it would exceed these limits.

Hence, Leylin would think of methods to raise the capabilities of the Fallen Star Pendant, hoping for it to be of use again.

[Simulation for experiment over, success rate to be 87.9%.] After a flash of blue light, the A.I. Chip reported a string of data back to Leylin.

Right now, the A.I. Chip could simulate most parts of the experiment and produce the success rate. This meant that as long as Leylin followed the steps given by the A.I. Chip, he could attain the same success rate that was indicated.

As for those magicians who painstakingly gathered ingredients yet not knowing their success rate, the A.I. Chip's capabilities showed that it could save Leylin a huge amount of resources.

So much so that this capability could even be employed during an advancement.

If the A.I. Chip's success rate was too low, Leylin could give up on the advancement and amass more resources before trying to breakthrough. This was much better after comparing this with other magicians who try to breakthrough in the dark and even suffer from a backlash.

"First of all, it's to separate the ingredients for the magic artifact!"

Leylin looked at the other items placed on the platform.

There was half a dagger and a broken arm. These spoils of war were obtained by Leylin during the bloodbath in the secret plane. Although some time had passed, the arm still shone with a silver light, completely concealing the fact that it was a human arm made of flesh.

“Silver-Claw Saurun actually imbued his magic artifact into his own arm, what a crazy fellow!”

Leylin picked up the silver arm and placed it within a golden funnel, setting it alight at the bottom.

A golden yellow flame continued to swirl in the funnel, turning the funnel red.

The blazing temperature continued to radiate from the hand. Once Leylin noticed the change, he began to drip some blue fluid, drop by drop, onto the arm.

The blue liquid fell onto the arm, turning into red immediately, extending it towards the whole arm.

The temperature increased yet again.

Leylin was ecstatic as he placed a transparent beaker below the funnel.

Pitter-patterPitter-patter Droplets of silver liquid continued to drip down.

Very soon, this liquid filled up half of the beaker.

Leylin’s right hand rapidly gathered some powder and jewels and tossed it into the beaker, while his left hand reached for a metal wire and stirred the beaker.

The powder and jewels melted immediately upon entering the beaker, and the silver liquid began to turn muddy.

A dozen minutes later, there were two obvious layers in the beaker. On top was a liquid the colour of flesh, and at the bottom, it was a layer that was pure silver in colour.

.....

After being busy for a while, Leylin looked at the several ingredients laid in front of him with a gleeful expression.

The formerly mentioned dagger and silver arm had not turned into two blocks of black and grey metal as they shone with lustre.

As for the Fallen Star Pendant, it was now submerged within a beaker. The beaker was half filled with pink blood with the scent of orchids

“Keliesiding Guraweier Alongsuo....”

Leylin chanted an incantation as he made a cut on his finger, dropping a dark red drop of blood into the beaker.

Bang!

Once the dark red blood entered the beaker, it immediately had a chemical reaction.

The pink coloured gases continued to rise and the blood began bubbling.

Threads of red liquid continuously climbed onto the Fallen Star Pendant, turning the original silver-grey colour into a dark red colour.

After the blood in the beaker completely evaporated, the Fallen Star Pendant turned into a dark red cross.

“What’s next is to modify the runes inscription!”

Leylin’s expression turned extremely solemn. This was the most crucial step to upgrade the Fallen Star Pendant!

Chapter 135: Angler Town

[Modifying the Fallen Star Pendant's runes inscription, increasing illusory runes to make Host compatible with its control.]

A.I. Chip sounded at this very moment.

Blue light flashed across Leylin's eyes, and many transparent patterns began appearing on the surface of the Fallen Star Pendant.

Next, all he needed to do was to proceed with the modifications according to the transparent patterns on the Fallen Star Pendant.

And the A.I. Chip could assist Leylin during his inscription process, so there would not be any mistakes.

Using a pair of tweezers to fish the Fallen Star Pendant onto a white cloth, Leylin took out a solid inscription pen and started to finely carve on the surface of the cross.

At this point, his hand was like a steel sculpture – it was as steady as possible, without even a single tremor.

This required an enormous amount of attentiveness and endurance and consumed a lot of time and energy.

As time passed, beads of sweat started to drip from Leylin's forehead.

[Fallen Star Pendant's runes modification is a success! It has newly added reinforced runes, energy dissipation runes, extension runes...]

As he listened to A.I. Chip's reminders, Leylin revealed a smile.

Immediately, he picked up another inscription pen from beside him. It had grooves on its body and was just as solid.

“Next, I shall fill in these carvings!”

Leylin lit two beakers and proceeded to melt the raw materials he had separated earlier from the magic artifacts. Those beakers now contained only liquids.

Subsequently, Leylin followed a fixed proportion and mixed the two

liquids together.

Leylin played with the grooves on the pen and it split open, revealing a hole to pour water into.

Immediately, he poured the concentrated silvery black liquid into the body of the pen.

Fine runes started to twinkle and flicker around the inscription pen, producing an enchanting radiance.

With a face of satisfaction, Leylin pushed the pen nib against the tracks of the inscriptions carved earlier on, repeating the process again.

But this time, the pen left silvery black liquid in its trail, filling every notch of the inscription.

After finishing the last stroke, Leylin sized up the completely reformed cross and nodded his head with satisfaction.

“Activate!”

Leylin used the ancient Byron language and read out two words.

Pong A cylindrical beam of gray light began to emit from the cross. Threads of silver light were moving along the rune inscriptions that Leylin had carved earlier.

As the silvery gray rays kept blending, they got brighter and eventually engulfed the Fallen Star Pendant in it.

When the rays completely vanished, the Fallen Star Pendant had changed in appearance entirely.

It only retained the shape of the cross but was bulkier than before.

Also, it had changed from a silvery black colour to a shade of dark red.

On the surface there were numerous fine and detailed rune inscriptions, causing the original fragments of gems to be concealed beneath it.

Leylin then took the dark red Fallen Star Pendant, noting its weight was heftier than before.

[Beep! Fallen Star Pendant's upgrade is now successful with those

middle-grade magic artifacts! Current Physical Defence: 24, Magic Defence: 25!] A.I. Chip sounded again, bringing Leylin the good news.

“Physical defence rose from 13 to 24, and magic defence rose from 15 to 25! Not bad, really not bad!”

This range almost surpassed the Scales of Kemoyin’s defense. It was almost equivalent to gaining another innate defensive spell. Leylin was naturally very pleased.

But there were a lot of other magic artifacts that have better innate spells. They would have another increase in power and defense in the future.

As for the Fallen Star Pendant, unless he finds even more precious materials to upgrade, it would be difficult to increase its defensive characteristics as per Leylin’s requirements.

Hence, in the long run, concentrating on his own innate spells was more dependable.

“In the south coast, acolyte ranks use beginner grade magic artifacts. Level 1 Magi use middle-grade magic artifacts and the occasional beginner grade magic artifacts. Only the extremely powerful level 2 Magi have the capability to get hold of high-grade magic artifacts!”

Leylin thought of the information he saw from the Book of Giant Serpent.

Although the era of the great Magus Serholm was somewhat distant, the general distribution of power and culture throughout the south coast could be seen.

Now that the Fallen Star Pendant had been promoted to a middle-grade magic artifact, it’s effective for Leylin as a level 1 Warlock. This, of course, put him in a good mood.

.....

The Great Canyon Margaret spanned across the Inlan Dukedom and several nearby kingdoms. It was also a place that was necessary to travel

through to enter the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, controlled by the Light Magi.

Of course, this was only with regards to Magi.

Ordinary citizens of this dukedom seldom step out of the kingdom, from their birth until their death. Even their mercenaries only received missions within the kingdom.

Mercenaries and wandering bards who had travelled the vicinity could use the experience they gained to flaunt or gain respect.

“Great Canyon Margaret is filled with danger. Even a hastened journey takes several months...”

Leylin slightly frowned as he thought over the information about the Great Canyon.

Transportation in the Magus World was inconvenient, causing a great deal of inconvenience for magicians who travel far and wide.

Of course, he had another choice – he could ride in an airship.

But unfortunately, not only was this mode of transportation costly, there was only a fixed number of dates per year for its departure. Furthermore, there were stringent requirements for passengers. They needed a local family or an organisation to be their guarantor.

Leylin was already on the wanted list of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. So naturally, he wouldn't wait for the airship and had to rush by foot.

“Your parent's good friend, that Aunt Marian, where does she live?”

Leylin asked Ivy, who was behind him.

“Angler Town beside the Great Canyon!” Ivy said in a low voice.

Leylin nodded. This girl's blood had greatly helped him. Besides, there was no clash in the itinerary. Under such circumstances, he didn't mind lending a helping hand.

“Well then! I will first send you to Angler Town to find your Aunt Marian!”

Leylin told Ivy.

“L...Lord! Is it okay if I followed you around?”

After what Leylin said, Ivy stayed silent for a moment before asking this question.

“Oh? But why? I did not treat you very well!”

Leylin was surprised. When he crossed over, he was from nobility, a respected Magus acolyte. He'd never taken care of anyone before. Ivy even suffered a small illness on this journey. Things would have taken a bad turn if Leylin wasn't a Potions master.

Moreover, every now and then, Leylin had to take from Ivy a big tube of blood. He simply could not comprehend why this girl would still want to continue following him.

Maybe, I was too charming? Or was she so oppressed that twisted feelings began emerging?

Leylin let his imagination run as he rubbed his chin.

“Is this for revenge?” But, he soon figured out what the girl had in mind.

Ivy lowered her head, obviously tacitly agreeing.

“Ivy you should be aware that due to the genetic constitution of your family, before you can find the lost meditation technique, you'll never be able to be an apprentice. Even I can't do anything about it!”

Only because Ivy and Leylin were inheritors of the same ancient bloodline, he felt that he should clarify it with her.

“I know! But I request from you to get me vengeance! For this reason, I'm willing to suffer any consequence!”

The little girl made her last effort.

“My apologies. Magus advocate fair transactions. And regardless of your wealth, health or spirit, it is not enough for me to deal with another official Magus!”

Leylin did not hesitate to reject the girl's plea.

Upon hearing Leylin's ruthless yet very real words, Ivy's shoulders trembled, hugged her knees as she sat in the carriage and fell silent.

Soon, the carriage entered Angler Town.

This was obviously a Magus gathering area. There were little, almost none, ordinary people, and the architecture of the buildings around portrayed a gloomy style that appeared cold and weird. Even the atmosphere was filled with a moist putrefying stench.

"This kind of place doesn't seem very good!"

Leylin frowned. According to his experience, these kinds of dangerous district beside the major transportation road, dwells those who harbors bad thoughts, Magus who have nowhere to turn to. Simply put, wanted criminals!

Leylin felt bad for Ivy. They followed the street and eventually got to the number plate Ivy had reported before.

Appearing in front of Leylin was a dilapidated two-story loft. Black wooden planks on the verge of collapsing revealed a decadent atmosphere.

The first floor had been converted to look like a grocery store. But it didn't seem to be doing very well, and the people who entered were but a few.

Parking the carriage at a side, Leylin pulled Ivy's hand as they entered the grocery store.

"Marian! Is Marian here?" Leylin yelled out. He did not attempt to conceal the energy fluctuations in his body as the road to Angler Town was unimpeded.

"Respected Magus Lord, how may I serve you?"

Before Leylin could finish his words, an obese middle-aged lady with a greasy grey apron and thick makeup made her way out, expressing humility and flattery.

If it wasn't for the level 3 acolyte's aura she had on her body, with this

kind of image, she looked exactly like an unkind housewife.

“Is this Marian?” Leylin asked Ivy who was standing at a corner.

“Yes... Yes!” Ivy nodded her head. Leylin finally understood why Ivy was so unwilling.

By the looks of it, Ivy’s parents probably did not have anyone else to turn to back then. Hence, they allowed their housekeeper to send Ivy to Marian.

“This is Ivy! Any impression?” Leylin pulled Ivy in front of him.

“John’s daughter?!” Marian’s face changed slightly. “About the Langster family matter, I feel sad...” Marian said as she squeezed out a few drops of tears.

“...Back then, I just happened to pass by and the housekeeper begged me to bring her here...”

Leylin briefly spoke about the cause and effects.

Upon hearing that she has to offer shelter for Ivy again, Marian’s face completely turned embarrassed, as if things were already difficult for her. Leylin reckoned, if he wasn’t around, Ivy would have already been chased away.

“Since it is what the Lord wants, then alright!” She replied with an ugly smile after struggling for a long time.

Chapter 136: Broken Axe Pub

Leylin rushed the carriage forward, wandering aimlessly around the streets.

He thought about Ivy and how she looked like a little puppy that was being abandoned. Even now, the sight felt a little bit laughable.

Magi always advocated voluntary transactions.

The way Leylin saw it was that while Ivy provided him with blood, he brought Ivy on the journey to this place. He even demonstrated his might to find her a place to sleep for the near future. This should have been enough to pay her back for her contribution.

In regards to bringing her along on the journey, Leylin felt that he didn't have the spare time to take care of such a cumbersome being.

Not to mention, if there was no suitable Warlock meditation method for her, Ivy would never be able to become a level 1 acolyte.

Warlock meditation methods were straining on blood vessels. Just like Leylin's Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique, it was limited to only Warlocks who came from the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent or its subspecies.

Other Warlocks and Magi would not be able to practice this technique even if they had the Kemoyin's Pupil technique. It could only serve as a reference for them.

While thinking, Leylin rushed the carriage and arrived at the heart of the town.

As he went deeper into town, Leylin saw that the average strength of passersby were greater. At the heart of the town, he saw a few level 2 acolytes and even a few other official Magi.

All of the official Magi here wore cloaks and mantles, and their faces were covered by a face flannel— almost as if they did not want anyone to recognise them.

In general, Magi who'd risk passing through the Grand Canyon Margaret rather than riding the airship were usually individuals who had been classified as criminal scum who were on the run.

Some of them had offended local forces and had been forced to flee. Others simply had to flee to save their lives because someone hankered after something they possessed.

As a result, abruptly using detection spells here was often the cause of a huge battle.

Leylin looked at the crystal watch that he was wearing, whose hands were showing five past noon.

The sky slowly darkened, and the pedestrians present on the road lessened.

Approaching the centremost pub, Leylin knocked on the somewhat rotten door.

Dong Dong! A dull noise reverberated throughout the somewhat empty street, even drawing the caws from a couple ravens.

"Who are you?" The wooden door quickly opened, and a long-haired man with sparse wispy hair appeared, sizing Leylin up.

"I wish to pass through the Great Canyon Margaret and I hear that I will be able to find a means of transportation nearby..."

Leylin used a shroud to cover his face. The voice that emanated from within sounded somewhat gruff.

"Great Canyon Margaret? Are you a Magus Lord?"

The old geezer patted his head, and immediately opened the wooden door, "Greetings, Sir! What you say is correct; the Broken Axe Pub is the only place where you can find the Seated Lupin Wolf..."

This old man was just an acolyte, but it was obvious that he had seen the world, and that he knew both how to read a situation and how to protect himself.

Leylin nodded his head and walked into the Broken Axe Pub.

He had already enquired before coming; the Great Canyon Margaret was always surrounded with terrifying sandstorms and it required several months to traverse it.

Also, there were a lot of hidden dangers in areas of the canyon. Being filled with dangerous swamps full of poisonous insects and the like, even horses could not be used in there.

Even Magi had lost their lives in some of the most dangerous spots!

Hence, forming a group and riding the Seated Lupin Wolf was the only way to get across the Great Canyon Margaret.

This particular pub was extremely quiet, up to the point of it being somewhat eerie.

Under the dim lighting, long chairs were placed along some partitioned rooms and sofas in the surroundings.

The little cubicle had three walls. Only the side facing the bar was wide open, as if the cubicle was a recess into the wall.

In the hall, several magicians sat in groups, drinking different coloured alcoholic drinks from time to time.

Leylin sniffed the aroma, and made out that the alcoholic content was extremely low, only meant to taste good, and not to induce drunkenness.

The magicians in the lobby were mostly level 3 acolytes. There were also several official Magi.

Leylin came in front of a horseshoe-shaped counter, sat down, and watched a bartender in a black western-looking suit.

“Sir! Do you want an ‘Ice Mountain Beauty’? Many magicians love this drink!” The bartender smiled and asked.

“I’ll have a cup! How much is it?” Under the dim lighting, Leylin’s tone sounded lazy.

“3 magic crystals!”

It was a very steep price that normal acolytes would definitely not be

able to afford. Moreover, only the currency of magicians was accepted.

Leylin nodded his head nonchalantly, tossing a middle grade magic crystal to the bartender. "I'll just have one cup! Furthermore, I wish to employ a Seated Lupin Wolf. Give me the information I require, and the remainder will be yours!"

Without a word, the bartender accepted the magic crystal. His hands moved swiftly, shaking the silver mixer on his hand, and drawing a few shiny arcs in the air.

"Sir, are you preparing to travel across the Great Canyon Margaret? Although the sandstorms have stopped, there have been rumours of a pack of Kary Vultures having seized the route leading towards the single necessary replenishing point. How about forming a group before setting off?"

The bartender shook the mixer in his hands as he explained to Leylin.

"Kary Vultures?"

Leylin's brows furrowed. This was one of the mystical creatures in the Magus World. In its mature stages, a Kary Vulture was comparable to a level 3 acolyte. As for the King Kary Vulture, it had an existence equivalent to a rank 1 Magus.

If there really was such a group of Kary Vultures occupying the single route towards the canyon leading to the supply point, a traveller's plan to cross the canyon would be compromised.

"All of these things that you have said were told to you by someone else, no?"

Leylin did not answer and stared at the bartender, before suddenly speaking up.

"Yes! Several official Magi have already formed small groups, and they're lacking a few members. Hence, they had to stay in this area, and entrusted me to find a suitable member for them..."

The bartender smiled as he placed a drink with large amounts of ice on

top and alcohol below to Leylin. It looked like a mountain of ice.

“Your ‘Ice Mountain Beauty’, Sir!”

Leylin raised the glass. There was a layer of thin frost around it, and even the alcohol inside had somewhat frozen over.

The refreshing cocktail entered his mouth, and the chill even spread from his throat to his four limbs.

The ice cold feeling subsided, and a fiery sensation followed. At first, it was extremely faint, but the heat grew stronger and stronger, even overcoming the previous iciness.

This feeling of freezing and burning was extremely strange, indeed worthy of its price of 3 magic crystals.

“Good wine! It has been a while since I’ve had such good liquor!”

Leylin slightly closed his eyes for a moment, exhaled a breath of contentedness, and said to the bartender.

“It is an honour to have satisfied my customer!” The bartender bowed slightly.

“Very well!” Leylin gulped down another mouthful of the ‘Ice Mountain Beauty’ before saying, “I wish to meet with the group before considering joining them or not!”

“Of course. In fact, the group was formed by solo travellers, so they have been staying here...”

The bartender smiled and nodded his head...

Half a month later, many acolytes respectfully and sincerely sent off six figures riding big black wolves out of Angler Town.

The Seated Lupin Wolves were matte black in colour, with a patch of red fur on the crowns of their heads. There were also two golden yellow rings on their forelimbs, which were securely linked to their necks.

Each wolf was over 5 metres tall and 2 metres wide. Their appearances looked extremely vicious, and every step they took spanned the distance of

several metres, so their movements were extremely quick.

Moreover, the Seated Lupin Wolf's back had two hump-like bulges, which were suitable for travellers to rest.

These Seated Lupin Wolves were provided by the Broken Axe Pub at the rate of five hundred magic crystals per wolf. After reaching the destination, the travellers would release them, and they would run back to where they came from.

At this moment, Leylin was seated comfortably on the back of a wolf. He rose and fell on the strong and healthy back with his eyes half closed, seizing the opportunity to rest.

Even though he was travelling on the Seated Lupin Wolf, traversing the Grand Canyon Margaret would require at least two months. The route also had a lot of dangers, so it was necessary that he conserve his energy and physical strength.

With the introduction of the bartender, he had several meetings with the small group before deciding to join them.

It would be very difficult for a lone magician to face the vile environment of the Great Canyon Margaret, and even break the watch of those Kary Vultures.

Moreover, Leylin confirmed that the other party members were in the same situation as him, forming a party at the very last minute, so he was not afraid of them colluding against him.

Even with Leylin's entry, the group members felt that their safety was not guaranteed.

After having waited for an additional half a month, it was only the previous day that another official Magus had joined them, and the group had decided to set off.

During that half a month, Leylin had been dwelling within the pub while keeping a low profile. It could have been that the Yale family and the Lilytell family had ran out of leads, so they had not decided to search here, enabling Leylin to avoid a huge battle.

Thinking about this, Leylin took a look at the members of his group.

Due to fact that the group was only a temporary one, in addition to the wariness of the magicians, more than half of the group members' faces had been concealed. Only an old, white-haired geezer and a voluptuous female magician did not conceal their countenances.

Other magicians were the same as Leylin, with half of their faces wrapped, and appearing cold and detached.

All of these magicians emitted the energy waves of a rank 1 Magus. The Great Canyon Margaret was too dangerous for any acolytes, so apart from any special circumstances, acolytes seldom chose this route.

The roasting sun shone with a comfortable warmth onto his body, causing Leylin to crave a good sleep.

As the surroundings turned dark green, the short shrubs bowed down to the Seated Lupin Wolf as they passed. This caused Leylin to think that he had arrived at the grasslands of Chernobyl Islands.

The Great Canyon Margaret was extremely vast, spanning across several kingdoms.

Moreover, rumours had it that originally, there was no great canyon and that in fact, it had been formed by two unknown, high ranked Magi fighting.

Looking down from the sky, the Great Canyon Margaret seemed like a wound created on the body of the south coast.

However, Leylin still expressed his skepticism towards such a myth. Breaking apart half a continent should have required at least a rank 7 or 8 Magus. In the recorded history of the south coast, there had been no mentions of Magi of such ranking having ever appeared.

Even if they had come from another continent, why would they have specifically chosen this place for their battle?

Chapter 137: Seated Lupin Wolf

No matter what the legend said, due to the double influences of topography and magic radiation, the Grand Canyon Margaret suffered from strange geographical conditions and an ever-changing natural climate.

In the Great Canyon Margaret, various terrains such as grasslands, mountains, forests, marshes, and deserts could be seen.

Moreover, one moment, there might be rain, and in the next moment, a terrifying thunderstorm.

As for the enormous intermittent sandstorms, they were a calamity that even official Magi had to escape from.

Fortunately, the large scale sandstorms had their specific timings, so this passage was not completely out of the question.

Advancing through such an environment was a severe test for a Magus' physical body and spiritual force.

As for the Seated Lupin Wolf, it was a unique species that grew up within the Grand Canyon Margaret.

As if undergoing evolution and modification through radiation, the original species of mountain wolves, in the span of a long time, had evolved into an organism that was completely capable of adapting to the terrain and climate of the Great Canyon Margaret.

As for the magicians on both sides of the Great Canyon Margaret, they captured, tamed, and transformed these wolves into a necessary tool for traveling through the Great Canyon Margaret.

According to Leylin's guesses, behind the Broken Axe Pub, there were definitely one or more large Magus families that had joined hands. If not, they wouldn't be able to reap in such sizable benefits from this huge territory.

The sturdily built Seated Lupin Wolves continuously dashed across the grassland, bounding forward from time to time to avoid the obstacles ahead.

Their sharp canine teeth and claws were enough to deal with most of the wild creatures, saving the magicians from having to cast spells, and letting them rest.

Rumble

In a split second, the initially bright sky was covered by clouds, and snake-like lightning rolled across the sky, sounding out rumbling thunder.

The most mysterious thing was that on Leylin's side, the weather was still fine. One side of the sky was clear, while the other was ominous, filling it with a type of indescribable aesthetic beauty.

"It's a thunderstorm! Pay attention and avoid getting wet!"

The leader, an old geezer, spoke from the forefront.

A vote had passed in the party, finally choosing the two who would show their faces as the temporary leaders.

"Damn!" Leylin's ears twitched as he heard a female traveller from the front complain.

However he did not bother with her, only drawing out a large tarpaulin from the sack on the Seated Lupin Wolf and draping it over his body.

Hu Hu Hu

The speed of the wolves was extremely quick, so after a dozen minutes, they entered the region of thunderstorms.

The cold wind was whizzing, mimicking knives slashing against everyone's faces.

Pitter-patter Not long later, bean-sized raindrops fell, rapidly turning into a heavy downpour.

Under the rain, the grassland had now turned into a marsh.

The muddy ground hindered the footsteps of the wolves. As for those

blind spots, they were littered with the traps of quicksand. Once someone was to step into one, they would very soon be swallowed whole.

Pu

The wolf Leylin was riding on sounded a long hiss, and immediately, its four wolf paws gave out white light.

Streaks of light began to form within the white dizzying glow. When the rays of light began to disperse, a thick coat of wolf fur could be seen above their paws.

When the fur was spread out, it resembled a hoof.

Ta Ta The wolf proceeded on water as if it was flat ground. The speed of the entire team got faster.

“A creature formed from a combination of nature and magic, truly magical!”

Leylin sighed in admiration as he gently caressed the wolf’s hump in front of him,

At this instant, the wolf hair on the hump gathered and became similar to a layer of skin, sticking onto the surface of the wolf. It had a layer of oil, causing it to resemble a raincoat.

Rain continued to roll off the body of the wolf, and not a drop remained on the wolf.

“This is only an ordinary mount. Hearsay indicates that within the Light Magus region, endless other magical mounts exist. Some were natural, and were captured from the wild, and others were manmade, causing them to be bizarre and exotic.” Leylin’s eyes began to display an expression of yearning.

With the speed of the wolf, they were able to make it before dark. Leylin and his party finally managed to rush out of the torrential rain zone and entered a stone forest.

“Tonight, we shall rest here. Pitch your tents and leave the wolves around the perimeter. Don’t forget to feed them!” The female magician

yelled.

Upon hearing that, the magicians restrained and fed their mounts. They also began to pitch their tents in the stone forest.

Very soon, a circle of black tents was seen assembled closely together. The Seated Lupin Wolves were circling around the tents, laying low, as if keeping vigil.

In a special tent, Leylin finished his meditation and looked at his status.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 28.3, Magic Power: 28 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 1%. Status: Healthy]

The progress for a magician was always a gradual one. After so many days of meditation, Leylin's spiritual force had only increased by 0.1. However, compared to the Magi who do not use high-grade resources to simulate their spiritual force growth, Leylin only had to persevere in meditation every day in order for his spiritual force to grow. This pace was considered overpowered!

As for the elemental essence conversion, not only it was one of the requirements to advance to a rank 2 Magus, it was another crucial method to increase the might of rank 1 spells, so it could not be neglected either.

Leylin had already somewhat discovered the Warlock's flaws.

As a small branch of the ancient magicians, not only did Warlocks have to unearth the power of their bloodline, they also could not neglect on their cultivation as a magician.

This meant that the advancement requirements for Warlocks were the same as those for Magi. Moreover, they had the limitations of their bloodline.

Even when a rank 1 Warlock would have reached the advancement criteria, if the concentration of his bloodline was not high enough, then the advancement would most likely fail, or not have an innate spell after their advancement. According to the A.I. Chip's simulation, this was very

possible!

This was indeed the case if given more thought. If the path of Warlocks was that superior, the whole Magus World would have been predominantly Warlocks and not the currently observed situation.

However, with such severe conditions for advancement, once a Warlock managed to break through, their might would often surpass that of a Magus of the same rank!

For Leylin, his personal advantage made it more suitable for him to walk the path of a Warlock.

After he finished meditating, Leylin got up and left the tent.

“Wu wu!” A Seated Lupin Wolf, which was laying beside Leylin’s tent, whimpered, slightly lifting its tall stature.

“Eat this!” Leylin took a large blue cod from his sack and fed the wolf.

The Seated Lupin Wolf growled with excitement and raised its giant red tongue that had white moss to gnaw on the fish.

As the tongue swept past Leylin’s right hand, he could feel a warm, moist sensation.

Although the wolf could hunt for its own food, only specific kinds of foods could keep up with their daily intake as a beast of burden.

“Hello, Lancey!”

The tent beside Leylin’s opened and a provocative and revealing figure walked out. Leylin rubbed his nose as he made his greeting.

During the allocation, he was assigned to be a pair with this woman.

“You’re here to feed the wolves too?” Lancey nodded her head, as she took out some cod to feed the wolf beside her.

Each and every move of this woman had a sense of loneliness behind it. Leylin felt that this was a woman with a story to tell.

Of course, every magician who wanted to travel through the Great Canyon Margaret had a story behind them.

Although Leylin did not know why this female Magus wanted to escape to the Light Magi domain, he was sensible enough to not ask.

“Listen! I hear the slight hymn of the wind! Look! The white clouds which are freely floating in the skies~”

At this moment, a rock beside the two of them trembled. A sprite, which was fully brown in colour and was wearing a Scottish costume, suddenly emerged and played its harp while singing.

Looking at the rock sized sprite, Lancey covered her mouth as she gasped.

“It’s the Brownstone Singer! I heard that they were extinct! I never thought that I’d see one here...”

Before Leylin could speak, the old geezer leader came out from the tent, while exclaiming in admiration when he saw the sprite strumming on top of a rock.

“Brownstone Singer?” Leylin recalled the data regarding these creatures. “It seems to be one of the rumoured creatures that possess mysterious abilities, but don’t have much attack strength!”

“What adorable creatures!” Stars seem to shine in Lancey’s eyes, and she could not resist the temptation to try and touch them.

“The energy waves that they emit are so weak— I wonder how they survived till now?”

“Let me capture them and slowly conduct my research!” A large bloke who heard the banter walked out with a disdainful expression.

Hu Following his demand, a layer of stone skin appeared on his hands as he tried to grab the sprite.

“You, stop!” Lancey frowned, but his words obviously did not carry much effect.

The large bloke did not even stop and immediately grabbed the Brownstone Singer. The sprite stared blankly, before crying out and turning into mud yellow light dots, which disappeared in the hands of the

large bloke.

“This... what just happened?”

“The Brownstone Singer is a creature that is naturally formed from nature. They are able to harmonise with the earth energy particles within the air. Magi who do not have an elemental essence conversion of 80% or above would not even be able to touch them!”

The old geezer leader said.

“Moreover, they are really timid! After getting scared off by you, they might never come back!” Leylin added on.

Upon hearing what Leylin said, the old man was astounded as he looked at Leylin. “I cannot believe that you actually know such information, which has been neglected by many!”

“I just happened to come across it while reading an ancient compendium...” Leylin replied modestly.

At this moment, the discussion had aroused the curiosity of the others Magi from the camp and brought them here.

“There’s still a little bit more!” Leylin looked at the huge bloke with a pitiful gaze.

“Legends have it that those who have been touched by a Brownstone Singer, regardless of their gender, would get pregnant!”

Chapter 138: Limestone Wasteland

“Are you kidding... Argh...”

The huge bloke had a sinister smile, but soon after he gave a miserable shriek.

The surrounding Magi also cried out in surprise, as if they'd seen something unbelievable.

Right in front of them, the huge bloke's belly began to slowly swell, taking the shape of a bulge.

Thinking back to what Leylin said earlier, Lancey was fearful yet relieved that she did not touch the Brownstone Singer like she wanted to.

Looking at the big bloke freaking out and hurrying back into his tent, drinking and consuming all sorts of items with medicinal properties, smiles were seen hanging on the faces of all the people at the site...

After appreciating the spectacle, they rested for the night and carried on their journey the next day.

The huge bloke had also recovered, but his complexion did not look very good.

Where magicians were concerned, to induce an abortion or to do a caesarean section, it was a small and simple operation that even one man could handle.

The effects of the Brownstone Singer might be frightening to a normal person. But for magicians, it was more of a practical joke than something to be feared.

“Due to the Grand Canyon Margaret's topography, it became a paradise for many exotic creatures. Legends have it that you can still find trails of those that were said to be endangered or extinct here....”

Leylin secretly thought, as he saddled the Seated Lupin Wolf, and watched the surroundings slowly changed into an ash-gray rocky forest.

If it wasn't because of Grand Canyon Margaret's complex and ever-

changing topography, and the huge sandstorm encircling it for a good part of the year, this canyon would have long become a natural resource mine for the magicians.

As time slowly passed by, the ash-gray rocky forest around Leylin and the others became shorter and shorter. Eventually, their surrounding only had fragmented small stones, resembling a barren land.

“Limestone Wasteland. We’ve already merged into the standard route. In the next ten days or so, we’ll be more at ease. But following this will be the frightful Golden Desert, where the Kary Vultures gather. Everyone should maintain their energy, and prepare for the upcoming battle...”

The lead, an old geezer, yelled uninterrupted, as he rode a Seated Lupin Wolf that had a few strands of white beard on its face.

“Limestone Wasteland? A.I. Chip, bring out the map!” Leylin slightly lowered his head as a projection that only he could see was emitted.

On a simple map, there were general markings of the danger zones within the Grand Canyon Margaret. In the center, there was a twisted green route, that was linked from one side of the map to the other.

‘Kary Vultures Gathering Place’ was marked with an eye-catching red font, that was in the center of the green line which they have to pass through.

On the other two sides of the route, there were other extremely dangerous zones marked scarlet, which indicated that they cannot be traversed.

This only meant that making a detour was impossible.

If Leylin and the rest want to safely get across the Grand Canyon Margaret, the only way was to banish the Kary Vultures obstructing the route.

“Limestone Wasteland!”

Leylin found the range of the Limestone Wasteland on the blue map. It was a big ash-gray region.

Small words were written beside the region: "Limestone Wasteland! Verified as having an extremely low level of risk, and no high-energy life form was ever seen..."

Obviously, the Grand Canyon Margaret was explored by countless magicians on both sides and this was the best route to take to get across the canyon as it held the least risk.

As expected, once they entered the Limestone Wasteland, Leylin felt the Seated Lupin Wolf's muscles and fur slightly loosen up, as if entering a relatively relaxed state.

"The concentration of energy in the air here is very less as if the air has some kind of leakage and causes the energy within it to be vaporised."

Leylin snapped his fingers and a small ball of flame appeared on his palm. It trembled in the breeze as if it could be extinguished at any time.

If it were outside of this area, this small flaming wisp would be burning brightly, several folds brightly than now and its power would have been 1 degree or more.

"AI Chip, calculate this flame's power."

[Beep! Mission objective noted. Analysing the target. . . .completed! Flame's power is 0.4238 degrees.] The AI Chip outputted the required data very quickly.

"As expected. The energy concentration in the air has been reduced. To cast spells here with complete power will cost even more strength than if cast outside of this place..."

Magicians and magical beasts all use the energy particles within the air to perform all sorts of unimaginable and marvellous magic. If the energy concentration in the air was less, the power of the spell cast will also be reduced.

Moreover, if a living being stayed in this place for a long time, it might undergo mutation.

As for those beings who knew magic, they would abhor these kinds of

regions.

“This type of area, the Limestone Desert, looks like it was caused by a war between two highly-ranked Magi, as stated in the Book of Giant Serpent!”

Leylin now begins to believe the legend; the Grand Canyon Margaret was created by two great Magi during their battle.

But the Limestone Wasteland’s desert-like appearance was a good thing for travellers like them.

At least, there was no need to worry about random, exotic species ambushing them along the way. They could rest and conserve energy.

This tranquil life lasted fifteen days.

Along the way, they experienced some bad weather and other situations. But it was not an issue for Leylin, who was a well-prepared magician.

The night before they were to walk out of this Limestone Wasteland, the old geezer, who was leading them all, and Lancey, gathered the six Magi .

“Starting tomorrow, we will be out of the Limestone Desert, and entering the Golden Desert!”

Under the illuminating flame, the old geezer’s wrinkled face showed uncertainty as his pair of pupils shone.

“At the heart of the Golden Desert, the third supply spot that we will pass by has been occupied by the abominable Kary Vultures. The reason why we formed small teams, was mostly for this! Now, it’s time to make the final decision!”

The old and tiny geezer looked around: “Will we kill the Vulture King as mentioned before, or merely expel them?”

“What else? Of course, we kill it!” The huge bloke who was teased by the Brownstone Singer took the lead and voiced out first.

“Materials made from the Vulture King can be sold for tens of thousands of magic crystals, and bar owners from both ends of the canyon

will give extra rewards. Is there anything better than this?”

This was mentioned by the bartender from the Broken Axe Pub, who gave this small team an impromptu mission — Kill the Kary Vulture King, do not let it leave alive!

Once this is done, not only will the materials obtained from the Vulture King belong entirely to the group, the pubs on both sides will also give a generous amount of magic crystals as a reward.

Because of the existence of the Kary Vultures, it had caused issues for cargos that were transported back and forth the canyon. It seems that the people involved can no longer tolerate it.

And the Kary Vultures were very vengeful creatures. If the Vulture King wasn't killed, it would gather more of its kind and hunt down any visible Magi.

The impromptu team Leylin was with, had a short discussion at the bar and agreed to the bartender's proposal.

After all, official Magi all lacked resources. They couldn't afford to miss any opportunity to accumulate more resources.

What the old geezer had put forward, was only to make a final confirmation.

“Of course!” “Well, did we not agree on this before?”

The huge bloke's words caused a resonance, and Leylin gently agreed. As long as it was appropriate, he did not mind giving his vote and gain some magic crystals.

“Great!” The old geezer smiled till the wrinkles on his face gathered together, resembling a chrysanthemum.

Seeing him like this, Leylin reckoned the Vulture King had an important material that the old geezer needed. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so into this.

“Good! Then I'll delegate tasks to everyone accordingly. The Kary Vultures are very cunning, their ability to fly makes battling them

extremely troublesome. Those of you who know rank 1 flying magic"

The leader old geezer started to deploy everyone.

Contrastingly Leylin remained uncommunicative; he did not voice out his expertise. He ended up with the role of assisting the attacker.

The old geezer's arrangement was quite fair. In accordance with the principles of "work more, get more", every magician was assigned a job within their capabilities and developed a detailed plan.

However, during the planning, the flying magicians who were tasked as attackers and responsible for intercepting had the privilege of selecting the spoils of war.

And the old geezer just had a showcase of his strange flying magic.

Flying was still a relatively rare ability amongst the rank 1 Magi. Not only is the specialised rank 1 flying magic rarely seen, it is also not practical.

Not unless they managed to obtain a few magic artifacts that could aid flying, like Bosain.

But, as far as rank 1 Magi were concerned, only middle-grade magic artifacts would be deemed useful. For example, that item in Bosain's hand – the liquefying metallic ball, called 'Bright Silver'. Although it was very useful for one at the acolyte level, for an official Magus it would have very low power and be considered to be very weak. The most important factor, speed, of that artifact had not reached a suitable standard and to use it to assist with flying would only be seen as a joke!

It was still rare to be able to master the rank 1 flying magic like that old geezer leader.

A pair of pale green wings grew on the back of the old geezer. When he soared into the sky, Leylin keenly felt the currents and particles in the wind fluctuate. Evidently, the old geezer was a Magus who specialized in Wind element energy particles.

[According to the quantity of energy particles dispelled from the target's, determined to be of Wind element. Essence element conversion is 15-

20%!]

A fine beam of blue flashed across Leylin's eyes.

The A.I. Chip could now judge other magicians during sudden bursts of energy, to determine the general stats of the opposite party.

But to get the most accurate data, it would still have to break through the protective force field of the target.

Unless he met a tenacious enemy, Leylin would never do something like that.

Before a rank 1 Magi's force field can be broken, the moment Leylin uses A.I. Chip to break through into the opponent's protective force field, it's as if Leylin had used his hands to peel off the other party's clothes. It would definitely lead to some extreme hatred from the other party. Leylin did not wish to make more enemies.

Or maybe he could wait for the A.I. Chip to upgrade again, and then he could break through into the other magician's force field without him noticing.

Leylin kept calculating in his heart, as he looked forward to such an ability.

Chapter 139: Sentinel Slate

The rain drizzled continuously, as if like a thread of yarn.

It pelted onto the tarpaulin Leylin had draped over his shoulders; it gave a cooling sensation.

Riding on the Seated Lupin Wolf that had a night's rest, Leylin appeared tranquil as he peered through the ashy haze, trying to look at the scenery ahead.

Whoosh

It was as if the curtains were pulled apart. Leylin felt like he had rushed out of a dense fog as extremely dazzling sunlight directly shined on them.

Rustling

Wolf claws slowly sunk into the countless grains of sand they were stepping on.

The rain-filled, dark clouds had gradually dispersed, and now the fiery sun had taken over the sky. It brought with it burning hot rays of brilliance, which constantly spread across the wide desert.

From what they could see, there was a field of gold as well as modulating levels of sand dunes.

“Golden Desert, we’ve arrived!” Leylin felt the surrounding temperature increasing constantly. It must have gone up by at least twenty degrees since the rain earlier.

The sweltering humidity continuously flooded into the tarpaulin, and even with Leylin's constitution, he felt a little uncomfortable.

Crash He hastily removed the tarpaulin and stripped off some clothes, and even then he only felt a little better.

This sudden change in temperature within the Grand Canyon Margaret was not unusual. If ordinary people came here, it would have been a torment for them. However for Leylin and his group, it was only a wee bit troublesome.

“Awooooooooo!”

The leading Seated Lupin Wolf howled, and the rest of the wolves that were being ridden by the others also howled. It wasn't clear if these howls were due to excitement or was meant as a warning.

With the howling of the wolves, Leylin noted that the body hairs on the Seated Lupin Wolf began to change.

The Seated Lupin Wolves had black fur, and only the head had a touch of bright red fur. But now in the hot sunlight, the wolf's hair color gradually faded. Finally, it completely transformed into a pale white color, then a streak of light blue lighted up from the wolf's body. The whole piece fur turned ice blue.

An icy breath emitted from the back of the wolf. The icy-cool feeling was very comfortable, especially in this desert.

“It actually even knows of the uses and the difference between thermal absorption properties of light and dark colors!”

Leylin could not help but to gasp in amazement of the adaptability of the Seated Lupin Wolf. Under the scorching rays of the sun, the ice blue fur was not affected by the heat as much as the dark fur. As for the fact that the Seated Lupin Wolf knew of these – it made Leylin feel somewhat shocked.

Moreover, they even applied the slight use of Ice element energy particles.

The Seated Lupin Wolf was undoubtedly the best creature to traverse the terrains of the Great Canyon Margaret!

The six huge wolves with icy blue fur gave off a chilly sensation. They very soon proceeded on their journey along with the Magi riding on them, and stepped into the Golden Desert which was 10 times more dangerous than the Limestone Wasteland.

Under the scorching rays, Leylin gulped down some more water.

With his vision and the A.I. Chip's detection, he had already discovered

many dangerous creatures in the nearby desert.

To put it bluntly, the level of danger in the Limestone Wasteland was the lowest in all of the terrains within the Great Canyon Margaret.

A dozen days before, the journey for Leylin and the others were extremely relaxed. There was no difference from an excursion, and the dangerous creatures they met were rare.

However, things were obviously different in here.

With the slightest observation, Leylin already discovered many dangerous lifeforms concealed within the sand dunes.

Six-Eyed Poison Snake, Golden Scorpion, Toxic Compound Eye Lizard were a few creatures that Leylin saw before in illustrations as they continued to appear before his eyes. There were even some grotesquely shaped creatures.

“The energy density in the air here has even been replicated. It’s even higher than in the outside world, no wonder there are so many troublesome things!”

Feeling the energy particles that filled the air, Leylin gasped slightly.

“Everyone, keep your spirits raised. The dangers in the Golden Desert cannot be compared with the Limestone Wasteland!”

The female Magus, called Lancey, shouted.

Even without her reminder, the other Magi present had already recollected their absent-minded pace from before.

One can loosen their guard occasionally in the Limestone Wasteland, but if they chose to do the same in the Golden Desert, they were foolish and seeking for death! Those magicians who were able to advance into a rank 1 Magus were seldom such people.

“Awoooooo!”

Just then, Lancey’s steed let off a howl. Its huge claws were raised and its sharp claws at tip slashed down with a cold glint of light!

Pat

Suddenly, a black scorpion with the image of an eye appeared in front of where the wolf was. It was patted down by the sharp claws of wolf as it continuously writhed its body and hissed.

Ka-Cha The Seated Lupin Wolf dropped its jaws and opened its gory mouth as it placed the scorpion into its jaws. The razor sharp mandible continued to chew, bringing along the snapping sounds of the scorpion's bones being crunched.

"Such a life form can be settled by the Seated Lupin Wolf. However, dangerous creatures such as the Kary Vultures must be dealt by us personally!"

Lancey slighted nudged her steed forward and said to the Magi behind her.

"This is..."

Where the Seated Lupin Wolf had attacked earlier, it sent a huge amount of sand flying in the air and Leylin spotted several grains of gold within it.

He reached his hand forward and grasp a handful of gold sand in his hands.

In the middle of the normal grains of sand, several golden grains were mixed in with it. Its weight was also heavier than the others by a large margin.

"Golden sand?"

Leylin looked at the gold which seemed to be alluring and was somewhat speechless.

"Golden Desert, this here is the real Golden Desert!"

"If it was the secular world, it will definitely cause chaos. A pity, however..."

With a look of contempt, Leylin flung the gold sand back onto the ground.

To magicians, only the magic crystals, the ingredients which could stimulate the spiritual force and the various advanced information was considered to be the real currency!

As for the gold belonging the secular world, apart from its uses as an ingredient, it was no different from regular metals.

Moreover, the Golden Desert was situated inside the Great Canyon Margaret, an area forbidden to regular humans. To traverse it also required the employment of the highly expensive Seated Lupin Wolves.

Thinking of the cost of excavation would already frighten the kings in many dukedoms!

Leylin only felt some pity regarding the golden sand, but he very soon regained his composure.

The A.I. Chip's detection had been activated by him all along as his eyes surveyed the surroundings. In the Golden Desert, one must always be on alert.

The six giant, icy-blue wolves seemed to be six small boats in the Golden Desert as they continuously plodded on.

After the sky gradually darkened, the temperature in the desert also dropped.

At this moment, the Seated Lupin Wolf gave off warmth; their furs also turned back to black, as if storing the heat from day time.

"Today, I shall stand guard during the night!"

After Leylin had built his tent, an official Magus present among them all, said so.

There was a total of 6 in the group. Leylin, Lancey, the old leader, and the huge bloke and two others who remained silent most of the time. The one who spoke was one of these two.

These two Magi had grey robes on at all times, and seldom spoke. Their personality was also extremely antisocial. Up till now, Leylin managed to exchange two sentences with only one of the two.

“We will count on you!” Lancey did not look too good, her face appeared tired as she went into her tent.

During the day, she had used her spiritual force to scan the surroundings for any activity going on. Now, she urgently needed to rest and meditate to recover her spiritual force.

As Leylin had the A.I. Chip to help with his tasks, his mental state was still doing fine. Yet he still put on a false impression of being weary.

“Are you not going to rest awhile?” Leylin appeared in front of one of those official Magi and casually spoke to him.

“I need not rest. I have these. Come out, my little babies!”

The Magus on night duty gave a deep laughter as his pair of arms performed a strange gesture.

Bang Bang Bang A layer of Earth element particles continued to emanate from his body.

The surrounding sand rose up by a layer. After which, it was quickly broken, revealing a dozen yellow slates.

These muddy yellow slates each had a human face on it. Some were young, some were old. They even a pair of slim arms and legs. Just like a gingerbread man.

“Father! We await your commands!” A dozen stone slate people knelt on one knee in front of the Magus on night duty.

“Very well, you all shall guard the night for me. You are in charge of...” The night guard Magus nodded his head and unrestrainedly began giving out orders.

“Sentinel Slates?” Leylin was bewildered.

These creatures were very similar to the Sentinel Slates in the database of the A.I. Chip, yet it seemed like a creature of a higher level.

“It’s a rank 1 Sentinel Slate but they have undergone modifications from me!” The night duty Magus declared proudly.

After becoming an official Magus, magicians will often attempt to modify and improve some rank 1 spells and even the rank 0 spells of acolytes.

Once they were successful, it could absolutely turn into a unique trump card. Or it could be sold in exchange for a large amount of resources.

A pity that these things and finding replacement potions were the same. Unless one was extremely lucky to chance across it, or only after undergoing a vast amount of experiments, would it be possible to see results.

“It’s really quite a remarkable spell!” Several traces of admiration, which was just right, appeared on Leylin’s face, turning the gaze of the spell caster gentler towards him.

“Let’s go! The Sentinel Slates originally have to use of acting as a warning. After my modification, their detection abilities can span a dozen miles...” The Magus on night duty said.

Leylin looked at the Sentinel Slates, which, having received orders, hurriedly ran to the outer area of the camp encirclement, using the sand to conceal their own bodies.

Along with the sand that continuously trickled down, the energy waves of the slate got smaller, finally turning into an untraceable spell. Leylin could not help but approve in silence.

Any Magus would have their own trump card. Once they were disregarded, it would definitely be a painful experience.

Deep in the night, Leylin who was in a light sleep heard an ear-piercing scream.

“Hurry, get up. We have trouble!”

The earlier Magus, who was on guard duty, went into the individual tents and his face showing utter exasperation.

“What happened?” Lancey’s expression was the worst. There were several spots on her body where the robes were not yet arranged, as it

revealed her alluring flesh. A pity nobody at the scene bothered to have another look.

Chapter 140: The Golden Giant

“A Golden Giant is in the process of moving towards us!” The Magus on night duty exclaimed hurriedly. “The Sentinel Slate used to alert the others have been completely eaten by it, too!”

“Fuck!”

After hearing these words 'Golden Giant', Leylin quickly heard the startled oaths of nearby Magi.

The Golden Giant was a type of elemental species. Its power was close to that of a fully converted elemental Magus. On top of that, it has its own unique racial talents. Only a rank 2 Magus had the capabilities to thoroughly kill or banish it.

“Wasn't it said that the Golden Giants from the Golden Desert are extinct? Furthermore, it appeared conveniently in our way. “

The old leader clenched his jaws in a state of madness. His eyes emitted a green radiance.

“Can we avoid it for the time being?”

Lancey suggested. “The Golden Desert is so huge, he might not be able to find us!”

“I am afraid not!” Leylin was the first to interject. “The Golden Giants have a natural instinct to chase species with high energy levels. The energy propagating from our bodies acts like a lamp in the darkness for the giant's eyes. The more we move, the more likely the Golden Giant will assault us!”

“If that is the case what should we do?” A look of despair appeared on Lancey's face. “Unless we have a rank 2 Magus within our party, we will all fail to escape the assault of the Golden Giant....”

There is a large gulf of difference in power level between the official Magi of different rankings

Leylin and his party of six were only slightly stronger than a rank 1

Magus. They would even have difficulties going head on with a semi converted elemental Magus. They had no chance of surviving an encounter with a fully converted elemental Golden Giant.

Semi elemental conversions refer to Magi whose elemental essence conversion has reached a level of 50% and above. At this stage, their increase in magical power due to the elemental essence conversion starts to become very obvious. When faced with budding Warlocks, they held a great advantage.

While Leylin was still an acolyte, he had an encounter with a semi converted storm elemental sprite while on the dirigible. If not for the fact that there was a large gathering of Magi from the different academies, the only outcome would have been death.

In the current predicament, Leylin had to face something far more powerful and dangerous than the semi converted storm elemental sprite.

“Perhaps, we should scatter and escape in different directions...”

The large bloke hesitated for a while before suggesting.

Upon hearing the suggestion, the Magi present entered a state of silence and eyes started flickering nonstop.

“Are you people mad?”

The old geezer interrupted the large bloke in a fit of anger. “If we fled in different directions, can you guarantee that you individuals are lucky enough to escape the assault of the Golden Giant? Furthermore, what will you do after you reach the Kary Vultures’ territory?”

The two sharp questions abruptly brought about a deeper silence.

After fleeing in different directions, they could once again head towards the intended destination. If they were lucky, there was even a chance of heading back to Broken Axe Pub.

However, this was only the last resort. The Magi will not accept their foul fate just like that.

“Quick! Another three of my babies are dead!” The night shift Magus

said with a heavier breath than before.

“Maybe we could use the Sentinel Slate along with a rune which dissipates energy continuously to distract the Golden Giant. While it is distracted, we could do our best to restrain the energy emitted from our bodies and sneak away... If it fails, we could do as mentioned earlier and scatter in different directions...”

In the midst of silence. Leylin suddenly spoke up.

“Although this plan is unreliable, we obviously have no better options...”

The old geezer let out a sign of deep resignation and pointed at Leylin. “We will do as he says! I happen to have the material for a few Sentinel Slates...”

Following which, he handed out vials filled with grey powders to the night shift Magus.

Having looked at the materials handed out by the old geezer, the night shift Magus displayed a look of unwillingness. However, he still received the materials from the old geezer. “Alright, let’s try it! But I cannot guarantee that it will work!”

Soon after the chants from the nightshift Magus, a few pieces of Sentinel Slates that resembled the destroyed one rose up from the sands.

At this moment, the people in the camp could clearly see a golden glow appearing in the eastern direction.

This glow was like the sun dissipating the darkness and brought about a glimmer of warmth.

In front of the solar disk was the colossal shadow of a giant.

The giant’s body radiated a golden light. It was armoured very simply. A leather armour on this upper body with an iron hoop in the middle that joined the two shoulder pads.

On the shoulders rested the head of the giant with rigid face lines that looked like it was caused by the scrapes and slashes of weapons. The tangerine hair on top of its head looked like it was burning mightily.

[Beep! High energy species life form spotted, determined to be a Golden Giant, recommended to leave immediately!]

At the same instant, the A.I. chip displayed out of a red warning screen.

“Quick! Quick!” The old geezer’s voice was filled with urgency.

“I know a few energy concentration runes, hopefully, it is of use!” The other usually quiet Magus stood up and said. Following which he applied what looked like a mixture of circular and triangular runes on the Sentinel Slate.

After the rune was inscribed, it radiated brightly and suddenly a power energy surged out from the Sentinel Slate. This enormous energy fluctuated chaotically causing the Golden Giant to let out a roar and accelerate towards it.

“Nice! It grabbed the Golden Giant’s attention!” Lancey exclaimed happily.

“Let’s add this on top!” Leylin uncorked a red test tube and poured its content on the inscribed Sentinel Slate.

After the liquid from the red test tube assimilated fully into the Sentinel Slate, the Sentinels let out angry snarls and transformed to be bigger and with stronger limbs.

“Hopefully, this will help them hold out longer!”

Leylin tossed away the empty test tube. The energy propagating out of his body was reduced from that of an official Magus to a normal person.

This was done using the Transfiguration Spell. It diluted the level of energy propagating from his body.

After which, he went over to his Seated Lupin Wolf, placed a cover over the wolf’s mouth and gave it a pat on its head.

The Seated Lupin Wolf seemed to be aware of the presence of the incoming Golden Giant. It got low to the floor with limbs trembling and waited for Leylin’s command.

The other Magus followed Leylin’s action.

They also used the protection of the environment to conceal their whole body.

Finally, the Golden Giant was nearer to the camp. It was less than only 500 metres away!

At this sort of distance, Leylin was able to see clearly every single hair on the giant.

“It’s up to you now, babies, attack!”

“Attack! For our father!”

The burly and buffed up Sentinel Slates roared. Some of them rushed head on towards the Golden Giant while the others split up and ran in different directions.

Whether it was the brave Sentinels Slates who charged heads on towards the Golden Giant or the others who ran in different directions, their bodies carried a large source of energy which pulsed out of them. The energy was almost like that of a rank 1 Magus.

“kjfl” The Golden Giant let out an unknown type of shout as if swearing.

It stretched out its large palms in a posture like it was hiding the sky and covering the earth. It pushed against the ground and dredged up the earth.

A few of the Sentinels were picked up by the Golden Giant

“For glory! For protection!”

The Sentinel Slates roared as their little fists rained down upon the giant’s large arm.

“Creak Crunch!” The large Golden Giant placed the captured Sentinels directly into the mouth. It sounded as if he was chewing through biscuits.

After ingesting the Sentinel Slates, the Golden Giant let out a loud roar and chased after the fleeing Sentinel Slates with large strides.

“Now!”

The old geezer’s voice was soft. The six men covertly pulled the Seated Lupin Wolf and left the camp area.

Everyone was doing their utmost to contain the energy pulsating from their bodies. There was even a cover on the Seated Lupin Wolf's body. Like moles, they stealthily left the area

The Golden Giant shouted at the fleeing Sentinel Slates and chased after them. It never gave the camp a second look.

“Run!”

Someone exclaimed softly after the golden glow disappeared. Without hesitation, everyone ran at the speed of light.

.....

Crash!

The wolf pack ran past, kicking up a dust of sand and stones. The dust glittered a faint glow of gold.

Leylin and the party had been on the run without a break ever since he was disturbed from his rest state at the camp. This, coupled with the Golden Giant incident had caused Leylin to have an unhealthy complexion.

From the pitch black darkness of the night to a fully risen sun, almost half a day had passed while on the run.

However, the thought of the Golden Giant spurred the party on and nobody grumbled about the lack of rest.

“We were lucky the Golden Giant does not seem to have high intelligence! It only knows how to mindlessly chase after high energy life forms. If not, the stealth attempt yesterday would have failed. It was a really suspenseful situation...”

Leylin felt a lingering fear in his heart.

Although he has advanced his magical powers and is considered to be someone of considerable power in the world of Magus, the Golden Giant was something that was entirely out of his league.

“However, the Golden Giant is an elemental species. It does not have a bloodline. If not, I would rather like to have a few drops of the Golden

Giant's blood for my experiments..."

Leylin's eyes betrayed a glimpse of regret.

There were countless types of mythical species in the Magus world. The Golden Giant belonged to the elemental species. Its whole body is made up of various type of elements and minerals. There is not even a drip of blood in it, naturally there will be no blood line.

In ancient times, the paths to becoming a Magus were many. The Warlocks chose the path of the bloodline.

And obviously, the Golden Giant chose a different path.

There are different paths to reach the pinnacle. Leylin's plan was to follow the path of the Warlock.

"Shall we rest? If we do not meditate and recuperate our spiritual force..." Lancey's voice was heard from the front of the party. She travelled together with the old geezer on the Seated Lupin Wolf.

All Magi make use of the both their spiritual force and magic power to perform miraculous magic. Due to the Golden Giant incident yesterday and the constant travelling, the six Magi were unable to meditate to recuperate their spiritual energy. Looks of exhaustion were spread across their faces.

"No need for that, we are yet to be out of the danger zone, the Golden Giant might catch up to us anytime soon..."

The wind carried the old geezers reply though the party.

After hearing the old geezers reply, the party sank into a solemn silence and carried on with their hasty escape.

The Magi feared the Golden Giant more than any other dangers in the Golden Desert.

Chapter 141: Kary Vultures

Whoosh Whoosh!

A gale carried up the sand, bringing about a glittering gold color.

On the endless Golden Desert filled with death and danger, a pack of six large wolves padded across the soft sands at a relentless speed.

Upon the backs of the wolves, there sat a couple human silhouettes.

“We are here! Before us is the Golden Oasis!” The old geezer studied the map and exclaimed brightly.

“Are we here at last?” the rider of a Seated Lupin Wolf raised his head slightly and said. With his astonishingly powerful eyesight, he looked into the distance and saw a blanket of green.

Ever since their encounter with the Golden Giant, Leylin, and his party had been on edge, and had been easily startled by the slightest of things. They had only just started to relax after having been on the run for more than ten days. As a result, they also reached their destination at a faster time than they had originally planned.

This was the Golden Oasis, the only large water source in the Golden Desert.

Also, it was the only traversable path through the Grand Canyon Margaret. The other paths were wrought with dangers that far surpassed the capabilities of a rank 1 Magus.

Leylin spotted a few large bird-like creatures in the far distance that were taking off and landing at the oasis.

They were the Kary Vultures, the main culprits that occupied the land.

The six Magi stopped and stationed their Seated Lupin Wolves at a sand dune not far from the Golden Oasis.

The Seated Lupin Wolves were great against some of the lower level life forms in the Golden Oasis. However, against the adult Kary Vultures, which were comparable to a rank 3 Acolyte, they had no chance of

surviving once trapped in their kill zone.

The Seated Lupin Wolves were still needed for the journey ahead. Furthermore, the wolves were borrowed. If the Wolves perished, a huge sum of magic crystals would be needed to compensate the handlers who were supposed to take back the wolves on the other side of the Grand Canyon.

“We can’t press on anymore! The Kary Vultures are capable of flight. We will surely be spotted by them from the air!”

The old geezer surveyed the surroundings, “We need to conceal the position at which the Seated Lupin Wolves are situated as well!”

“I might be able to help in this aspect!” Leylin let out a faint smile and waved his two hands at the shadow of the sand dune.

Under Leylin’s hand, the black shadow warped and swiveled. As if a giant behemoth hiding in the shadows, it opened its maw and swallowed the entire sand dune.

“Darkness is the natural friend of concealment.” In the shadow of the darkness, the large wolves vanished.

“Good job!” Lancey praised Leylin.

In her eyes, although Leylin was still just a budding Magus, she admired his nimble mind and weak, but practical spells.

However, this was just a false front by Leylin.

Upon hearing Lancey’s compliment, the big bloke incessantly let out a cold snort, “If it were up to me to do it...”

“Ok, ok! We are a party after all, why the need for that?”

The old geezer interrupted the big bloke, “Our enemies at the moment are the Kary Vulture flock and their King!”

“Lancey, you shall explain the situation to the party!”

Lancey stepped to the middle of the party and produced a blue gem from a small crevice in her chest region.

“This magic artifact is modelled to act as a spying eye, and can examine images within a ten kilometre radius!”

Lancey finished her explanation and placed the gem in her hands. She dripped a few drops of water from her water pouch onto it and chanted a few incantations.

A beam of light blue light was emitted from the gem. The light warped and stretched until it looked like a mirror’s surface.

On the mirror like surface, a beautiful lake could be seen. Green shrubbery and coconut trees grew around it. Occasionally, large red birds could be seen ascending and descending from the forest.

The vision on the mirror surface continued to pan in. Leylin could see the true appearance of the Kary Vultures.

The Kary Vulture’s wingspan spanned 5 metres and was covered in scarlet feathers. Its talons looked cold and sharp. The pink bald patches on its head were a disgusting sight. A tumor-like muscle bulged on its curved and completely bald head.

There were more than a hundred of these Kary Vultures in the oasis. If they were all fully grown and under the leadership of an official Magus-like Kary Vulture King, the band of Magi stood no chance.

“More than a hundred? This amount is too much! Can we see the Kary Vulture King?”

The old geezer hastily questioned.

“I will try my best!” Lancey was uncertain but continued to pan the mirror in the direction of the flock of Kary Vultures.

Over yonder, there stood a gigantic tree with a peculiar hollow that looked like a den. Hidden in it was an incomparably massive Kary Vulture.

While Lancey was trying to zoom in the mirror to get a closer look, the massive Kary Vulture seemed to notice her presence and let out an angry screech.

“Ga Ga!”

It sounded like a crow, but somehow unexplainably different. Suddenly, the surrounding Kary Vultures in the flock were agitated and stirred up.

Following the angry cry, a terrifying sonic wave swept towards all four directions.

“No way! It discovered my presence!” Lancey’s complexion changed for the worse.

Pa! The mirror shattered into pieces like a broken crystal. It turned into a blue glow and dropped onto the floor.

“Ga Ga!” The Kary Vulture King’s screech echoed from the distance. The Kary Vultures shook their large red wings, and like trained soldiers split up into sections. They spread out like carpet that covered the sky and searched the surroundings, not missing a single area.

“Sorry!” Lancey apologised with a look of embarrassment on her face.

“No problem! At least we saw the situation clearly, didn’t we?” The night shift Magus replied quickly.

“That’s right! That’s right!?” The old geezer replied with a brief flash of shame across his face. It was him that allowed Lancey to search for the Kary Vulture King.

“Ga Ga!” The large Kary Vultures patrolled the sky for a long period of time, but it was to no avail. At last, they violently attacked some of the land creatures in the area. The Kary Vultures swooped up what looked appeared to be large lizards, and flew back into the oasis.

For Leylin and the official Magi, it was an easy task to hide from the pursuit of the Kary Vultures.

“Ok! Let’s discuss how we should deal with that goddamn flock of bastard birds.

Below the ground, in a temporary hut crafted using magic, the six Magi regrouped.

“A hundred Kary Vultures with power levels similar to level 2 or level 3 acolytes, plus a Vulture King whose power is far beyond what we

expected!”

The old geezer looked at the other Magi.

“What else is there to do? Let’s follow the earlier plan and observe their hunting paths and patterns. We will then kill off the small hunting packs before mounting an assault into the oasis!” The big bloke was the not even the least bit concerned as he waved them off with his hands.

This was the plan that was discussed earlier – simple and practical.

However, after the incident with the Golden Giant, the people in the party started to have a pressing sense of urgency and were unwilling to waste time on such plans.

Furthermore, the Golden Desert was the Golden Giant’s habitat, and they did not wish to bump into it again.

“Alright! However, we have to increase the frequency of our attacks, and get through here quickly!”

Having observed Leylin and the rest of the party approving this plan, the old geezer grudgingly agreed to it...

A black scorpion-like creature guided by the darkness stealthily crawled along the desert floor. Its hooked tail swung from side to side as it moved along. There was an unusual bright red colouring on it, which was obviously an indication of it being poisonous.

Shuck!

All of a sudden, a muddy yellow tongue lashed across at speed unseen by the naked eye and pulled the scorpion into a sand dune.

Boom! The sand dune split open, revealing a muddy yellow lizard. The lizard was covered by bits and pieces of fish scales and had a large beautiful comb growing on its head.

Zi Zi! The lizard opened his mouth, and with one gulp and a movement of its neck muscles, the scorpion was eaten.

After ingesting its food, the lizard swayed its stocky body and used its front limbs to rapidly dig into the sand and bury itself in it.

“Ga Ga!”

Almost immediately after the lizard buried itself, an unpleasant vulture screeching echoed in the night sky.

Whoosh! Following the vulture’s cry, a violent gust of wind swept by.

The large Kary Vulture swooped from midair, and using its black talons, it knocked the sand dune apart and clenched its claws.

Kacha! The sharp black talons directly hooked into the flesh of the lizard, and the lizard let out a howl of pain violently flipping its stocky body.

“GaGa!” The Kary Vulture let out a screech of delight and pecked at the lizard with its hooked beak.

Pu! The mud yellow lizard’s skull had been split. Its brain matter and blood left a mess on the sands.

The Kary Vulture grabbed onto its prey tightly and began to fly back to its den.

Although normal vultures liked rotting meat, the Kary Vultures obviously preferred to ingest fresh and living mammals.

The mud yellow lizard was two metres long, but in comparison to the Kary Vulture’s stature, the bird looked like it was grabbing a small fish.

“Latent Fireball!”

Somewhere from within the darkness, several black colored fireballs suddenly appeared and struck the Kary Vulture that was carrying its prey.

In a flash, the black fireballs were all over the Kary Vultures body.

Bang! Without a sound, the Kary Vulture, along with its dead prey, were reduced to ashes.

The following fireballs did not decrease in intensity. They shot right up into the sky and killed the remaining Kary Vultures.

Following his attack, the ground vibrated and the sand parted, revealing Leylin’s face.

“A.I. Chip! Present the degree of attack!”

For these few days, he had been on watch in the area to hunt down those Kary Vultures that had swooped down looking for food.

Just now, Leylin had been experimenting with the rank one spell that the A.I. Chip came up with.

Long before, when he was a rank 3 acolyte, Leylin had tasked the A.I. Chip with simulating a rank 1 defensive spell model.

However, after receiving the teachings of the great Magus Serholm and advancing to a Warlock, this task had been delayed.

Entering the Golden Desert left him feeling that his attack techniques were lacking. As someone who lacked a conventional attack technique, Leylin decided to place the task back on the agenda.

Chapter 142: Latent Fireball

What Leylin had wanted to simulate earlier was a defensive spell.

However, it was meant to be used by magicians who wanted to have a breakthrough with the Grine Water, so naturally, Leylin, having turned into a Warlock, did not need it anymore.

As if struck by inspiration, Leylin added in a few rank 1 spell models from the Book of Giant Serpent and let the A.I. Chip make its modifications and optimizations, devising a rank 1 spell that was suitable for his elemental affinity.

After advancing into a Warlock, Leylin's spiritual force had significantly increased. Even the A.I. Chip, which was bound to his soul, seemed to have obtained many benefits. Just two days ago, it was finally able to simulate a rank 1 spell model.

[Beep! Data collected, scanning in progress...]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

[Latent Fireball! Classification: Rank 1 spell: Darkness and Fire. Degree of attack: 30.3. Added elemental bonus: 0.3 degrees]

Right now, Leylin's elemental essence conversion was 1%. Hence, he obtained a 1% increase in the might of his darkness element spell.

Although it seemed like the increase was insignificant, once the elemental essence conversion reached 50% and above, every Darkness element spell would be stronger than regular Magi by more than half!

"Not bad! This might is enough to deal with most Magi's innate defensive force fields!"

Leylin continued to analyse the data, his face revealing a satisfied expression.

It wasn't that the strength of Magi's defensive force fields were always the same. However, normally, Magi who had just advanced only had a defensive force field with the capability of 20 degrees. However, with the

progress of their spiritual force, coupled with them seeking for some precious resources to increase the might of their magic spells, their defensive force fields would often become strengthened.

The range varied for each individual, which was truer for magicians who cultivated in high-grade meditation techniques.

As for Leylin, who was a Warlock, as well as having unearthed his bloodline, the defense might of the Scales of Kemoyin would also continue to become stronger.

A magic spell of 30 over degrees was enough to break most regular rank 1 Magi's defensive force fields.

That was to say, apart from his own trump card of his defensive force field, Leylin had another powerful method to deal with other Magi in the future.

However, it could only be that way.

If possible, Leylin would, of course, want the A.I. Chip to custom make a mighty rank 1 spell that could cover speed, strength, defense, detection, and all other various aspects.

However, it was a pity, as the A.I. Chip was only able to simulate the Latent Fireball spell due to Leylin having amassed large amounts of information. Also, it was due to the contributions of Darkness and Fire spells from the Book of Giant Serpent that made Leylin able to create the Latent Fireball after a long period time.

The few rank 1 spells in the Book of Giant Serpent were from the great Magus Serholm, who was also a Warlock with the Kemoyin bloodline. His elemental affinity was naturally towards the Darkness and Fire aspect, so the spells he collected were of these two elements, which allowed Leylin to benefit greatly from it.

As for these kinds of conditions, they would never be met again in the near future.

Hence, in this span of time, unless Leylin discovered a new type of Darkness and Fire element spell model, the A.I. Chip would not be able to

simulate any new spells.

As he thought about the Book of Giant Serpent, Leylin involuntarily touched his chest, where the corner of a hardened black notebook was exposed.

This was the Book of Giant Serpent, which had been obtained from the Dylan Gardens, and kept securely by Leylin at all times. It was made of a special kind of material where the pages of the book carried a strange sensation to the touch. As if made of some creature's hide, every page could store large amounts of information.

Inside the book, not only were there a dozen rank 1 spell models, there were also three rank 2 spell models, together with the great Magus Serholm's travelling experiences and lab experiments. The information inside was aplenty, and it was Leylin's most valuable item that he'd gotten apart from the high-grade meditation technique.

Weng Weng!

At this moment, a pocket-sized diary that was hanging like a keychain trembled.

Leylin opened the diary and flipped to the page that was shaking.

This pocket-sized diary was only the size of a child's palm. On the faint yellow page, a secret imprint that had the shape of 3 rocks stacked together was letting off a slight glow and trembling.

Leylin reached out his finger and lightly dabbed on the secret imprint.

"Haha! Leylin, you have killed a lot of them haven't you? The Vulture King where I am at has already dispatched all of the Kary Vultures, so be careful when you conceal yourself!"

The voice of the huge bloke sounded from the secret imprint.

This pocket-sized diary was what official Magi used to collect the secret imprints of their friends, professors, colleagues and other people that they wanted to keep in contact with.

Some Magi, however, preferred to have the secret imprints inscribed on

their bodies. One example was the huge bloke. Leylin saw that one of the huge bloke's arms was fully covered with the secret imprints.

Those densely packed imprints left Leylin feeling rather dizzy.

Although it was rather troublesome, he preferred to use the diary to collect the secret imprints.

"Alright, I got it!" Leylin said to the secret imprint.

Afterwards, he closed the diary and hurriedly left the area.

Very soon, Leylin saw the dark figures on the far horizon.

They were the shadows of the Vulture King, which, having been enraged, brought the entire flock with it.

However, compared to a few days ago, when they could cover the sky, the flock was now rather thinly spread out. Their numbers had dwindled from over a hundred to less than half, at around forty or fifty. This was the fruit of Leylin and the others' labours from over the last few days.

Even from this distance, Leylin could sense the violent energy waves radiating from this furious Vulture King.

"Ga Ga!"

With the Vulture King in the centre, the tremendous energy waves continued to radiate into the surroundings. This kingly figure was venting its frustration and rage at the continuous loss of its subordinates!

[From the energy waves radiated, target's Vitality is over 20, Strength estimated to be 17-19. Concrete data is unknown!]

Creatures like this, who had reached the stage of an official Magus, often had a layer of defensive force field around them. Leylin's A.I. Chip still could not penetrate through and obtain any concrete stats. It could only analyse the strength that the target displayed, and give a rough estimate.

However, these stats alone made Leylin's face change.

Creatures like these often possessed immense strength and vitality and

even had innate spells which were terribly difficult to deal with.

Looking at the Vulture King snarling above a few piles of ashes, the other Kary Vultures in the surroundings also cawed in anguish. Leylin stared intently at the Vulture King before leaving the area.

Deep in the night, in an underground room that was temporarily carved.

“Today we have killed another 9 Kary Vultures, well done!” The old geezer smiled.

“Right now, those damned trashy birds only have a strength of 50 odd!” The huge bloke was also excited.

The materials from a Vulture King, which rivalled the existence of a rank 1 Magus, were extremely precious. Moreover, they could also reap the rewards from both sides that governed the Great Canyon Margaret.

“However, the Kary Vultures that are still alive now very seldom hunt for their prey in the areas that we have set up. There are also signs of them relocating soon...”

“We have to hurry and find a way. If not, we could lose this bonus bounty reward...”

Lancey, who was standing on the side, poured cold water on their conversation.

The families governing both sides of the Great Canyon Margaret did mention that they could pass through the Golden Oasis when the vulture flock had relocated. However, against this Vulture King that had its forces greatly reduced, and a bountiful reward assigned to it, Lancey and the others naturally did not want to let the Vulture King go.

“Perhaps we could...”

After some silence, the old geezer suggested an idea.

A fireball-like sun was hanging up high in the sky, and heat waves rising from the desert distorted the view.

Inside a stone forest that was temporarily created by spells, Leylin and the other five were huddled up.

“How is it? Can that old geezer do it?” The huge bloke spoke offhandedly as usual.

“You have to believe that old man. He is an official Magus, after all!” Lancey’s brows furrowed, “Has the ambush been set up?”

With a flash of a yellow light, Leylin came out from a side of the stone forest with the yellow light still glittering around him, “The side that I am managing has been completed!”

“It’s all set up now!” From the other side, the night shift Magus and the other quiet one spoke.

“Great! As long as that old geezer is able to lure the Vulture King here, I will rip that damned bird apart!” The huge bloke clenched his fist, his knuckles crackling.

Looking on, he was a magician that specialised in physical training and the reinforcement of his body, possessing strong muscles and strength.

“For the materials of the Vulture King, even the old geezer is spending a lot of effort!”

Leylin figured that if not for some precious ingredient the Vulture King had, the old geezer would not be this zealous and even offer to be a bait to lure it over.

“They’re coming!”

The A.I. Chip’s detection allowed Leylin to discover the other party first. Very soon, on the horizon, a thinly spread layer of black figures appeared.

There was also a human figure, with a green hurricane engulfing his body as he wildly rushed over.

“Everyone, return to your individual posts, and pay heed to the orders! Quick!” Lancey shouted nervously.

In a flash, the Magi who were present disappeared.

Closer, even closer!

The old geezer dashed extremely fast. From his concealed area, Leylin

could even distinctly see that on the sides of his wrinkled face, blood continuously flowed out from both of his ears.

Whoosh!

The old geezer rapidly entered the stone forest, at the same time transmitting his voice. “Be careful of the Vulture King’s sarcoma. It is able to emit a sound attack. I took a hit from it earlier!”

After seeing the stone forest, the Vulture King hesitated.

However, thinking about the prey it was chasing, whose energy waves were not much different from its own, and the fact that it had even killed its children...

“Ga Ga!” The Vulture King’s eyes turned bloodshot as it led the flock into the territory of the stone forest.

Chapter 143: Andre Town

“The target has reached the kill zone. Begin!”

The hasty transmission passed through the secret imprint and simultaneously sounded out in five different locations.

Upon hearing the transmission, Leylin’s hand radiated a scarlet red glow, and he proceeded to press his hands against the obelisk in front of him.

Bang!

A circular wave of tremendous magical power erupted violently. The colorful spell glowed, and trapped the Kary Vultures within it like a cage.

“Ga Ga!” The Kary Vultures screeched furiously while the tumour-like muscles on their bald heads grew in size and glowed a bright red, finally culminating in a violent explosion.

Ting!

The resulting ear-piercing sound wave continued to reverberate within the cage. The remaining Kary Vultures continued to vibrate their tumour like muscles, amplifying the sound wave in the process.

“This kind of attack...”Leylin widened his eyes, the sound waves pounded on his skull like a hammer. He started to fall into a state of dizziness.

Under the agitation of the sound waves, the ring of light on top of the cage started to flicker and fade.

“The attack coming from such a lowly beast is stronger than expected. Furthermore, it can be amplified by the rest of the flock. If the Kary Vultures from before were still present, they would have surely broken free from the cage!”

“Plan A is not working, time for plan B!”

Lancey’s exasperated voice emitted from the secret imprint.

“Copy!”

Leylin whispered to the secret imprint and transfigured a magic spell

[Estimated countdown to entrapment detonation: 10 seconds!] The A.I. Chip stated.

“Let’s go!” Leylin took a last look at the Kary Vultures that were still struggling in the cage and fled the scene.

Bang!

10 seconds later, at the stone forest, a violent explosion occurred.

The sound of the explosion filled the area, and black smoke shot up into the horizon.

In the blaze, colorful and fine potion powders occasionally dispersed.

To increase the power of the spell, Leylin had added a ton of explosive and conflagratory potions.

“Haha! Beasts are still just beasts!”

Looking at the Kary Vultures that struggled in the fiery blaze, the big bloke, who was also present, laughed out loud, condescendingly.

Two streams of blood flowed down from the big bloke’s ears. Evidently, the Kary Vultures’ attack had done considerable damage to him.

“This Kary Vulture King has realized its racial talents. The tumour like muscle on its head can be used to emit sound wave attacks, and it can be amplified by the flock. The level of danger will have been increased by at least two levels. When I get back, I must demand more money from those despicable merchants.”

The old geezer cursed.

“Talks about the price increase can be discussed later. Where is the big fellow?” Leylin pointed at the heart of the explosion.

Slowly, the blaze started to die down. From the original stone, forest emerged a large, soot covered, bird-like figure.

Half of the scarlet feathers on this Kary Vulture were burned off as a result of the explosion, and the other half of them were covered in black soot. There was also a large blood stain on its bald head. It was a funny

sight, but Leylin and the rest of the party did not dare to let their guard down.

“The explosion just now had an estimated power of 30 degrees or higher. How unexpected...” Lancey hung her jaw open in shock.

“After all, it is not a weak bodied Magus but a high-level species with a powerful body!” Leylin said quickly, “Go forward and surround it! It is about to escape!”

“Damn it!” The old geezer reluctantly looked at the Kary Vulture King, which was already in flight, and cursed. He rapidly chanted an incantation.

Following his chant, a faint azure breeze converged, and formed two large azure wings on his back.

“I executed both the baiting and the intercepting, so I must get a larger share of the loot!”

The old geezer blustered. He vibrated the wings on his back and floated into the air.

Whoosh! The old geezer traveled at a very quick pace. He was as nimble in the air as he was on the ground. From the looks of it, he had much practice in air combat.

“Ga Ga!” The Kary Vulture King angrily cried out. Sadly, a large portion of its wings were damaged by the explosion, and it was no match for the old geezer in the air.

After hovering and swooping for a while, the old geezer grabbed an opportunity. With a green ray, he pierced one of the Kary Vulture King’s wings.

Peng!

With one wing pierced, the Kary Vulture King lost its balance and crashed down into the ground. A large cloud of sand floated around the downed Vulture.

“Advance!”

Leylin and the rest of the party immediately rushed up and surrounded

the Kary Vulture King.

Blood flowed out from the multiple wounds on the Kary Vulture King. Looking at the Magi who surrounded it and the human figure floating in the sky above him, its eyes betrayed a sign of hopelessness.

“Haha! Goddamn beast, I shall tear you apart!”

The big bloke laughed out coldly. A green-greyish stone skin appeared on his body as he leapt at the injured Kary Vulture King.

“Ga Ga!”

The Kary Vulture King sounded an abnormally high-pitched shriek and shook its wings.

What remained of its unharmed wing slashed across like a knife, with feathers erect like steel blades. The wing clashed with the big bloke’s fist.

Bang! A dull explosion sounded out in midair and shook the ground below.

The big bloke quickly retreated, his greyish stone skin letting out a crackling sound like the popping noises of popcorn.

The Kary Vulture King let out another screech, and its body turned red. It looked like the Kary Vulture King was pumping all of its blood into its head. The originally shattered tumour on its head begun to rise and swell again.

“Careful, he is about to let loose a sound wave attack!” Leylin rapidly shouted out. He grabbed the tumour with his palms. “Restrict!”

Sssii!

The countless black tentacle-like objects reached out from the Kary Vulture King’s shadow and bound it tightly. Extra effort was placed in tying up the Kary Vulture King’s skull region.

“All together!”

Leylin yelled wildly. Together with the other two silent Magi, he attacked the Kary Vulture King.

Various intensely fluctuating magical spells landed on the Kary Vulture King's body.

The spells tore apart the Kary Vulture King's chest, causing large amounts of blood to spurt out of it.

Kacha!

The old geezer, who had been floating in midair, let out an emerald air-blade attack, which chopped off the bound tumour.

The Kary Vulture King screeched a couple of times as the light in its eyes started to extinguish, and it thudded onto the floor.

Pa!The old geezer landed on the ground, and his magical green wings disappeared.

The six Magi surrounded the Kary Vulture King's corpse. They all had complex looks on their faces.

“What a chore this has been! If not for the additional remuneration from the pub, this would have been a complete loss!”

The lack of serious injuries on the party was a poor reflection of the difficulty level of killing off the Kary Vulture King. They had to spend a lot of time to prepare the traps and come up with the various materials needed for the potions. On top of that, the fact that they needed 6 Magi to complete the task proved how big of a challenge it was.

The materials that were scavenged from the Kary Vulture King's corpse were barely enough to cover the expenses of the effort taken by the party.

If anyone was dead or seriously injured from the incident, this would have been counted as a big loss.

Magi were a rational bunch. They could calmly perform cost-benefit analysis under different circumstances. If the cost was greater than the benefits, they would avoid doing the job.

This time, if not for the fact that the Kary Vulture King was obstructing the way towards their destination, the party would have left such a high-level creature alone.

“No matter what, the fact that our party has sustained no serious injuries is good news!”

The old geezer smiled widely and said, “Now let’s discuss how to distribute the plunder from our efforts...”

Afterwards, true to Leylin’s expectations, the old geezer claimed the majority of the feathers and the pair of large wings with the argument that he had put in the most work. From the looks of his happy face, he must have needed it urgently for an experiment or for crafting.

The rest of the party followed suit and claimed what they felt was fair for the amount of work they had done.

Leylin took only a bit of the blood and flesh from the tumour and nothing else.

As a Warlock, he was extremely interested in the bloodline of high-level creatures. Although the benefits of the Kary Vultures’ bloodline were not documented, Leylin wanted to experiment to see if he could extract anything from it.

At night, in the Golden Oasis, the 6 Magi cleaned up the remains of the Kary Vulture King and refilled up their water supplies in the nearby water source. The Seated Lupin Wolves, which had been hidden for a long time, happily cleaned themselves in the lake.

In a glowing tent nearby, Leylin looked at the surface of the tumour, which he had retrieved with a glint of excitement in his eyes.

“A.I. Chip, record data, assist in the experiment!”

Leylin silently chanted a sentence, and immediately pulled on a pair of white rubber gloves. He held out his thumb and pressed on the tumour.

The blood on the tumour flesh has dried completely by now. There were bloodstains on it and it was shriveled.

“It is very light, there seem to be meridians and air sacs...”

Leylin’s eyes glowed blue. Using his other hand, he used a scalpel to break the surface of the tumour.

Inside the flesh, there was an oddly small amount of muscle and blood vessels, and it was comprised mainly of small air sacs.

Many of the air sacs were layered over each other, forming what looked like a lattice shape that resembled a beehive.

“This kind of composition...”

Leylin muttered to himself, “A.I. Chip, record the image!”

.....

After the experiment was finished, Leylin cleaned up his makeshift laboratory, picked up a goose feather quill, and wrote in his goatskin notebook: Sound vessel composition and sound wave attack...

The path after the Golden Oasis was much less dangerous. They did not have any further encounters with powerful, high-level life forms such as the Golden Giant.

.....

Andre Town was a small town located on the other side of the Grand Canyon Magret.

The Kary Vultures had caused the town to become empty and desolate. However, upon exiting the Grand Canyon, they saw a few people.

“May I know if you people are master Lancey and company?”

There was already someone standing by the roadside. He was clad in the pub’s working attire. Upon sighting Leylin and his party, he bowed respectfully. “The incident with the Kary Vultures was already relayed to us by a secret imprint. Please follow me back to the pub to collect your rewards...”

“Ok!” Lancey and the old geezer stepped out among the group and gave their agreement.

After reaching the pub the attendants unhitched their luggage, and with a whistle, the Seated Lupin Wolves hurried into their feeding area at the rear of the pub.

Chapter 144: The Chase

“It’s only renting for a few months, but it costs five hundred magic crystals. Your boss sure knows how to make money!”

The big bloke complained.

“In fact, we generally charge one thousand magic crystals per rental of the Seated Lupin Wolf. We only charged the minimal maintenance costs this time, as you Sirs took on the task...”

The smiling waiter explained.

As the old geezer arrived, he immediately threw the Vulture King’s skull onto the counter.

“Mission accomplished! Have a look!”

From behind the counter, a white-bearded, bespectacled old man in a bartender’s uniform came out. However, from the energy waves exuding from him, he also seemed to be an official Magus.

The white-bearded old man carefully examined the Vulture King’s skull for a long while, only then did he put it away.

“It is indeed the Vulture King’s head. According to the agreement, each one of you will be able to get....”

Mr. White Beard was nimble. He immediately took out bags filled with magic crystals and magic materials and gave it to everyone. It seemed like he had prepared this beforehand.

“In actuality, I belong to the great Dorian family...”

After completing the delivery, the old geezer put on a kind smile and extended an olive branch to Leylin and the rest.

These kinds of big families would recruit foreign magicians from time to time to further strengthen their family.

Moreover, Leylin and the rest had decent strength, and since they had come from the eastern part of the Grand Canyon, they were not likely to be spies sent by their enemies.

As long as they didn't have a massive headache that they brought with them, it was likely that the local large magisteriums would be most willing to offer shelter for such talents.

Leylin noticed that the big bloke's face obviously displayed his intention to agree. The two magicians who were together, however, seemed indecisive. As for Lancey and the old geezer, they did not hesitate to reject the offer.

Leylin himself did not consider this option.

When magicians joined other big families, it was because they wanted to obtain higher level meditation techniques, magic resources and the like. Leylin already had meditation techniques, and as for magic resources, he could just use medicine to trade for them. Besides, compared to such closed families, Leylin was more willing to join an educational institute or an organisation. Hence, the olive branch the families threw to them, had a lesser appeal to Leylin.

"Come! In any case, we've operated as comrades! How about we go and have a drink?"

The leader old geezer suggested.

"Maybe not. I still have other matters to attend to, let's keep in touch..."

Lancey left in a hurry, seeming like she had an urgent matter.

"I'll pass as well. It has been a tiring journey. I just want to find a place to have a good sleep!" Leylin rejected him with a smile.

He had only become temporary comrades with these people to hurry along with the journey, so there was not much friendship between him and them. Besides, the crime he had committed was not light, so it would be better if he rushed to the domain of the light Magi as quickly as possible.

After Leylin, the big bloke, and the other two magicians also rejected the old geezer's suggestion.

The old geezer shrugged helplessly and looked at Leylin as he left the

bar.

Outside the pub were a couple of narrow streets that were paved with flagstones. It was dark all around, and only the lanterns outside the pub still gave off a couple soft rays of light.

“It’s already dark!!” Leylin checked out his surroundings “It’s probably wise to first find a place to rest...”

[Warning! Warning! High energy force field convergence detected ahead, determined to be a rank 1 offensive spell!]

The moment he stepped out of the bar. Leylin felt his scalp go numb, the blood vessels deep inside his body also started to surge and boil, emitting a sense of foreboding.

At the same time, A.I. Chip also started to project a large amount of red letter of warning.

“This attack is aimed at me!”

Leylin’s mind was working on overdrive. His body turned into a blur as he dodged to the side.

Boom!

Suddenly, powerful energy waves exploded in front of Leylin. Dozens of weapons made of a silvery metal formed a metallic storm, which raged at the area where Leylin had previously stood.

The bar was directly cut in half, and the ceiling was shattered, exposing countless stupefied magicians and the painful groans of those who had hurt by the aftermath.

“Kid, I have found you!”

As the debris settled, upon the ruins stood a midget, who was staring at Leylin’s face with a pair of eyes that were like daggers.

“You are... part of the Lilytell family?!”

Leylin patted the dust off his body, and calmly squared off against the midget.

Among the people and powers that he had offended, only that elder of the Lilytell family could have this kind of enmity and capability. In addition, the spell was similar to what Bosain had used.

“You are courting death!”

Leylin’s actions had clearly enraged his opponent. The midget waved his hand as countless metallic fluids floated up in midair to form weapons such as long spears and giant swords. On the surface, it even radiated the acute radiation of energy forcefield.

“Go!” With a point of his finger, the metallic weapons once again chopped down at Leylin.

“Latent Fireball!”

Leylin chanted his spell at lightning speed. From the shadows a dozen black fireballs emerged and collided against the metallic weapons, causing violent magical explosions.

[Target’s magic determined as Metallic. Degree of attack: 32 degrees!] The A.I. Chip probed this information, which let Leylin release a breath of relief.

“You do have some skills, no wonder you could kill my subordinates and my grandson!”

The midget said.

“So you are the elder of the Lilytell family and the grandfather of Bosain? Quite without scruples!” Leylin retorted.

“This... gentleman, this bar is under the protection of the Dorian family, within this...”

From the ruins, the old geezer with the white beard and glasses that was tending the bar finally stepped forward.

“I know!” the midget tossed over a piece of metal. “I have met your family’s Buffett a couple of times, this is his keepsake! And there is even a message on it!”

“So, it is Master Lilytell, who is here to apprehend a criminal!”

The old geezer threw Leylin a gaze of pity, then hurriedly bowed to the midget. "Since that's the case, the Dorian family will maintain a neutral stand on this!"

"Huh, kiddo, you're able to escape well! Did you think the rules here could save you?"

The midget looked at Leylin with an unspeakable expression filled with schadenfreude, as if he wanted to see Leylin's expression of despair. "The strong dictate the rules, and the weak can only obey. This is the norm of the world".

The midget spread his hands. "The ignorant fools that dare to provoke my Lilytell family must pay the price in blood!"

Rays after rays of white metallic light appeared from the body of the midget. In just a moment, a silvery metal armor formed on his body.

The metal energy particles in the air kept revolving around the midget, emitting bright and dazzling lights.

"This... this kind of strength! It's a semi-converted elemental Magus!!"

The large bloke and the leading old geezer who had arrived with Leylin hadn't left, and they were now looking with shocked gazes at Leylin and the midget as they stood in the middle of the battlefield.

"No wonder he was in such a hurry to leave, he had actually gotten himself in such big trouble, tsk tsk! A semi-converted elemental Magus..."

A hint of schadenfreude flashed by the leading geezer's eyes. According to him, since the opponent was a semi-converted elemental Magus and Leylin had been caught up to, it spelled certain death for Leylin!

In the Magus world, a semi-converted elemental Magus was a Magus with an elemental essence conversion that was higher than 50%!

This kind of strength was pretty good in the entirety of the south coast. If no chairman of some major academies or the like stepped in, you could basically walk around the south coast uncontested.

One could say that even if all the Magi in the whole bar came together,

they still wouldn't be able to stop this one lone midget.

What about Leylin? He was only a fledgling Magus, and might not even know what elemental essence conversion was. The leading geezer didn't even think Leylin would survive this.

"Right! There are also these people!"

After recklessly leaking some of his power, the midget turned around to look at the geezer and the big bloke. He then said, "Is he one of your acquaintances?"

"My Lord! My Lord!"

The geezer was now bowing, his head almost touching the ground. "I did not know this person's past, and I also did not know that he was someone that was wanted by the great Lilytell family! Otherwise, I would have...."

Pa! Pa!

By the time that the geezer had said half of his plead for mercy, Leylin and the midget had charged towards each other in the shadows. The ruins were unceasingly shaking.

"He only used you to disrupt Leylin's attention..." The big bloke, standing at one side, said with a laugh.

"What do you know?" the leader old geezer said, as he awkwardly got up.

At this moment, Leylin's body was covered in fine black scales. It gave off a brilliant shine, and his body muscles began to bulge. He kept colliding into the silver-armored silhouette.

The surrounding buildings could collapse immediately at the slightest brush. The two men seemed to have morphed into ancient beasts, recklessly displaying the violent strength of their bodies.

Bang!

The silver-armored silhouette waved his fist, and a mass of liquid metal automatically adhered to it, turning the normal fist into a barbed fist cover.

Leylin's expression didn't change. His hand emitted a dark red glow, as he fiercely rammed it against the barbed fist.

Boom!!! The atmosphere continuously exploded, resulting in plumes of dust particles.

From the inside of the dust, two figures could be seen flying upside down.

Bang Bang! Several houses at both sides were knocked over, but the ones who lived there were mostly acolytes. Upon seeing official Magi fight, everyone distanced themselves from the fight, and no one stepped out to discuss the fight.

"Sure enough, at an official Magi battle, the key is to be able to use formidable magic in the blink of an eye. The enemy will not give you much time to prepare any magic!"

Leylin waved his right hand, which was turning numb.

Crash! After turning numerous somersaults in the air, out emerged the silver-armoured midget, "I've underestimated you, kid!"

The midget revealed a sinister smile. "However, no matter what, you'll have to die here today!"

"Oh really?"

Leylin showed a smile on the corner of his mouth, "But I think I can still live for a long time!"

"Unfortunately, this is just a body!" The midget suddenly said a strange verse and his body started to make rattling and crackling sounds.

Hong hong hong!!! The midget's face became twisted, and his body muscles began to swell. In the blink of an eye, he turned into a three-metre tall giant!

Kacha! Kacha!

The giant's clothes split open, and on the left side of his chest, there was an old man's face, with silver coloured hair, and metallic ornaments on his face.

“Today, you’re doomed to die here. Your spirit will burn forever!”

The old geezer stared at Leylin as he opened his mouth to chant an incantation.

Chapter 145: Teljose City

“This looks like it was caused by some sort of body possession spell!”

The knowledgeable Leylin was quick in assessing the situation.

“Old geezer, you only have the strength of a semi-converted elemental Magus, and you want to take me down?” Although Leylin looked like he could not have cared less, his right hand had already reached into his belt pouch.

Boom!

With a flip of his hands, a couple of potions exploded on the giant’s body. Following the explosion, a cloud of purple flame engulfed the giant’s body and continued to erode it.

“Negative energy flames? Child’s play!” The giant shook his head and widened his mouth to let out what seemed like a vacuum force, sucking all of the flames into his abdomen.

“Now, it’s my turn!” The giant let out a satisfying belch and grinned at Leylin.

In an instant, the giant turned into a silver flash and appeared right in front of Leylin.

The giant’s huge body structure and protruding muscles were faintly oppressing Leylin.

Whoosh! The giant’s skin was suffused with a metallic silver tone. It swung its mace-like arms towards Leylin, and Leylin could only raise both his arms up to protect his chest.

Peng!

Like an artillery shell, Leylin’s body was rammed viciously into a wall, causing a large building to collapse in half.

Bang! The rubble rolled apart and revealed Leylin’s figure.

[Host’s ribs fractured, multiple muscle injuries, immediate medical attention recommended!] The A.I. Chip alerted.

“Such great strength, it must be at least 15 or greater! On top of the amplification caused by its metallic element”

Leylin’s eyes flashed blue, “A.I. Chip, input the site information, activate the prediction system!”

[Site data transmitted, simulating opponent’s information!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned. Moreover it projected a 3D image for Leylin to look at.

[According to the opponent’s movement, the next attack will appear at an angle of 38 degrees on the right side. Probability: 98.7%!]

Shua! Just then, the giant charged over again.

[Most optimal action: Duck to the left at 63 degrees, jump backwards!]

Leylin’s body twisted and barely avoided the attack of the giant, before hurriedly jumping back.

Pu

At this moment, many half-metre-long metal spikes were piercing the ground where Leylin had stood before. If Leylin were still standing there, he would have died.

To outsiders, Leylin was extremely nimble, making inconceivable dodging movements and evasions as he avoided a barrage of attacks.

“He could actually stall a Magus who has converted half of his elemental essence and also has a reinforced body!”

The old geezer was drenched in cold sweat. “I still thought...”

“You thought that he was just a budding Magus that can be bullied easily, right?” The huge bloke said. “Count yourself lucky, old man! Managing to survive to this point hasn’t been an easy task!”

On the other side of the battlefield, the giant was visibly agitated because of Leylin’s successful evasive maneuvers. The human face on top of the left side of its chest blustered, “Damnit! Goddamn pest!”

After which, the giant executed a maneuver.

Using its large hands, it broke apart its own stomach and pulled out what looked like a golden hoop.

“Hoop of Imprisonment!”

A bright white light emitted from within the golden hoop and immediately struck Leylin.

As the white luminescence fell upon him, Leylin was shocked to realize that his body had been weighted down by what seemed like an entire mountain. He could not move a single inch.

“Although this type of magical artifact is only of middle grade, It has been said that even a semi-converted elemental Magus would be shackled for at least a minute by its imprisonment powers!”

Blood continued to flow from the silver giant’s abdomen, and its guts were visibly hanging out. Unperturbed, the giant advanced towards Leylin and started choking his neck. Its eyes danced with gleeful ridicule, “Now, run for me, little thing!”

“It’s over!”

The crowd in the vicinity sighed.

“Being in a deadlock with a semi-converted elemental Magus for such a long time did not change the fact that he is just a budding Magus. On top of that, the opponent had a middle-grade magical artifact!”

The bespectacled, white-bearded, old geezer from the pub lost his earlier look of pity, and with a tinge of regret, he said, “What a shame! He was a gifted Magus”

“Young man, say your last words!”

A cold smile spread across the silver giant’s face.

“The person who should be saying his last words is you!” A wide smile spread across Leylin’s face.

“Fallen Star Pendant, activate!”

A dark red ray projected from Leylin’s chest and spread to his four limbs

at a rapid rate. Immediately, Leylin held down the giant's two hands. His pupils became vertical slits and carried an amber luster as they radiated a mysterious light.

Innate Spell—Eyes of Petrification!

*Kacha! Kacha!"

The silver giant's expression became blank, after which an ash-grey color started to grow from the giant's eyes. The ash-grey color covered the giant's face in no time and spread quickly towards its chest and limbs.

"Petrifying magic? Goddamn!" The old geezers head on the giant's chest cried out in an alarmed tone.

Following which, the old geezer ground his teeth, and spat a mouthful of blood on the giant's body. With a metallic flash, the rate at which the petrifying spell was spreading on the giant's body slowed down.

"To hell with you!"

Leylin reached out his right hand, and the glow from the Fallen Star Pendant turned into what looked like a long sword, which was then swung down.

Pu! On the first swing, the giant's skull flew up.

On the second swing, Leylin directly dug out the old midget's visage from the giant's chest.

Pa! The face fell onto the ground. "I will not forgive you!" it shouted.

"It is I who will not forgive you!" With a cold look, Leylin stepped onto the human face.

"Ah..." A depressed voice sounded out, and a puddle of green blood slowly formed under Leylin's foot.

.....

Huu Huu...

A light breeze passed. There was a deathly stillness in the crowd.

"He... he actually managed to slay a semi-converted elemental Magus!"

The old geezer with his hanging mouth opened constantly surveyed the surroundings as if he was looking for something.

Immediately, upon seeing Leylin's gaze turn towards his direction, the old geezer put on a smile and flattered him by saying, "Master Leylin! Please forgive me for offending you, it was a misunderstanding..."

Looking at the old geezer who had changed his facial complexion, Leylin shook his head and was not prepared to deal with him.

There will be no benefit even if I were to murder him. Leylin concluded that he himself was no homicidal maniac.

He picked up his bundle and the loot from his victory, and hastily left the scene. The surrounding crowd naturally opened up a path for him to exit. Magus or acolyte, nobody dared to make eye contact with Leylin.

"I must leave this place quickly!"

Leylin looked at the rapidly shrinking Andre Town in the distance and muttered to himself.

The midget from earlier was obviously just one of the many clones of the opponent.

This aligned with Leylin's earlier reports. According to the report, the Lilytell family's elders' powers should have reached an elemental essence conversion rate of 80% or more, which was the minimum requirement for initiating one's advancement to a level 2 Magus.

Based on an estimation, the midget earlier had, at most, a 50% elemental essence conversion rate. It was not very stable, and the difference between his and an elder's true strength was too huge.

Leylin had been introduced to this type of Magus before. It was not easy for them to create a clone, as a copious amount of time and precious materials were needed. Furthermore, if their clone were destroyed, the Magus would be heavily affected as well.

So far, only the clone had chased him up till this point.

Leylin guessed that either the opponent was not able to be here

physically, or the clone was intentionally placed on the other side of the Grand Canyon to facilitate communication and to do his bidding.

Regardless, the next wave of attacks from the Lilytell family would arrive soon.

“Speaking of territory, I am still within the boundaries of the dark Magi. Once I reach the domain of the light Magi, even the Lilytell family will not dare to trespass...”

.....

Leylin turned his head to take one last look and vanished into the darkness.

Months flew by unconsciously.

In the span of these months, Leylin hurried along his journey with little rest. He traversed large kingdoms, and finally entered the boundary of the light Magi's domain.

In the south coast, there were two types of Magi. One type of Magus advocated violence, believed in natural selection, and looked up to the enduring dark Magi, while the other type was fond of peace, and revered the scientific research of the light Magi.

Within these two factions, there lay many different groups and academies. While there was a lack of cohesion and an abundance of friction between these groups and academies, they would always stand together as one whenever it was against an enemy.

The extent of the rule of the light Magi lay in the heart of the south coast, while the dark Magi occupied the more desolate outlying areas.

From Leylin's observations, this sort of distribution of territory looked like a couple of concentric circles. The light Magi occupied the most fertile land in the middle, while the dark Magi occupied everything else around it.

After a prolonged period of travel, Leylin found it hard not to admit that the light Magi territory was generally more prosperous than that of the

dark Magi. The commoners in the light Magi territory also enjoyed more peace and stability.

In regards to government administration, the light Magi had to do much more than the dark Magi in order to keep a firm hold on the vast and rich territory

According to the map on the A.I. Chip, Leylin would reach the market place of the light Magi domain, Teljose City, by today.

Leylin had few opportunities to change out of his black robe. He changed out into a clean set of leather armour.

The exquisite armour comfortably fit Leylin's well-proportioned body, and brought about an air of heroic spirit, making him look more masculine.

The light Magi instinctively viewed the dark Magi as their adversaries, so Leylin did not wish to incur any trouble by doing something rash.

Although it might only be a trade centre, there would surely be people, like the dark Magi, who were there to sell their contraband items. Leylin took extra caution and kept a low profile.

Following the horses, Leylin forged on ahead. He observed that the pathways became wider and wider, and the people used a larger variety of transportation devices to aid in their travels.

Upon further observation, he came across a variety of new and odd things.

For example, he observed a female Magus on a winged steed, and an old geezer on a hot air balloon. Hanging from the hot air balloon, there was a banner, which read, "Welcome to Hookety's miscellaneous goods shop, we have a supply of..."

Furthermore, Leylin even saw a few machines that resembled the components of futuristic vehicles. The machines, which carried a bunch of dwarfs, roared and rumbled loudly as it sped along the road.

Chapter 146: Jenna

Amongst those who were travelling on the same route as Leylin, there were not only magicians, but also many regular people.

Most of the regular people rode on horse carriages, and they stored large amounts of vegetables and fruits at the back.

Even though they might treat magicians with much respect, it was obvious that they held no fear when facing them. It seemed that in the light Magi domain, magicians were often revered, yet were on close terms with the civilians.

This situation somewhat puzzled Leylin. In a kingdom where the dark Magi ruled, the mere mention of Magi would give rise to thoughts of terror and bloodshed. Even an acolyte would be enough to scare away a whole town of people.

“By the looks of it, the fact that light Magi and regular humans are able to coexist harmoniously is true!” Leylin glanced at a farmer who had taken off his hat to greet him, and nodded in acknowledgement.

“And...” His blue eyes shone, “There is no trace of radiation in his body. Does this have to do with the purification tower?”

In the area under the light Magi’s rule, white lofty towers were erected a distance away from each other. The towers were able to neutralise the radiation from magicians, which was vital in allowing magicians and regular humans to mingle within this area.

As for the area ruled by dark Magi, Leylin had once seen inside the library at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the designs for the Purification tower. But, it was apparent that the dark Magi were disinclined to build such a thing in their own territories. Besides the problem of the costs of constructing such a tower, Leylin guessed that the dark Magi liked to rule the commoners with a bloody and terrible regime.

As the mount was continuously flying, Leylin felt that his horizons was continuously expanding.

Green waves, almost like the waves of an ocean, was rippling in the breeze, giving off a thick atmosphere.

Here was the Teljose Great Plains which covered an area of several thousands of square kilometers and had several cities with population larger than 100,000.

And the Teljose City was located in the middle of this huge plains, and was the central zone of this huge region.

“The vegetation is lush and abundant here!”

Leylin heaved a heartfelt sigh. The closer he got to the Teljose City, the more lushly the crops were growing, as if they were fond of people. There were even wheat plants which were as tall as a man – seeing which Leylin felt moved.

“Isn’t this very amazing? Are you a Magus from outside this region?”

A red pony suddenly drew to a halt besides Leylin’s own saddled mount, and the female Magus sitting atop this red pony, spoke to Leylin.

This female Magus wore a white, Chinese-styled gown, and wore a necklace strung with pearls and precious stones around her neck. Her appearance was quite ordinary, but on her face, she wore a gentle smiling expression.

Leylin had experienced this feeling of tranquility a few times.

Although this female Magus radiated the energy waves of a rank 1 Magus, she had very little actual combat experience. There was only one layer of innate defense spell upon her body, which appeared to suffice for her.

“That’s right, Miss, I come from afar and am a wandering Magus! You can call me Leylin!”

Leylin put on a harmless smile as he introduced himself.

“My name is Jenna, I’m a local Magus of Teljose. You are surprised upon seeing these many crops, aren’t you?”

The female Magus smiled and struck a conversation with Leylin.

“Indeed, you seldom see wheat grow this tall and let’s not forget the quantity...” Leylin’s face suffused with a puzzled expression.

“This is a Magus’ blessing! In a while you can experience it by yourself!”

The female Magus wore an expression of mystery but also expectation.

“I’m looking forward to it!” Leylin smiled briefly.

He could judge with just a look that this woman is like an innocent sheep, lacking the experience of meeting Magi of her peers and extremely curious about everything.

Just like a young lady from a large family, that has wandered off.

Afterwards Leylin stopped observing these matters, as the City of Teljose was appearing in front of Leylin’s eyes.

In Leylin’s line of sight, there first appeared a black dot.

Afterwards, that black dot increased in size as if it turned into a dark cloud, enveloping the whole sky.

Leylin’s jaw dropped – he saw a tall and erect mountain, reaching through the clouds and standing quietly on the plains.

Leylin had seen a lot of large mountains in his past life, but he was sure that he’d never seen a mountain so large that it could cover the skies.

In addition, on that large mountain there were numerous tightly packed buildings and black dots moving around on the many layers on that mountain.

At the foot of the mountain, a large tall city wall was erected in a circular fashion. A visual estimate gave its height at a couple of dozen meters and that it was entirely made out of grey granite. It looked extremely impressive.

At the giant peak of the mountain, there were layers of luxuriant snow. Smoke was continuously emitted from the peak, as if it was going to erupt at any given moment.

“An active volcano! Teljose City is erected on an active volcano!” Leylin

gasped.

“Correct! Keep on looking around!”

The Magus Jenna pointed towards the opening of the volcano with a laugh.

Boom!

Countless black smokes were rising, the whole volcano was coming to life. Just like a mythical giant laughing sadistically at the sky.

A giant pillar of smoke rushed into the sky, coloring part of the sky black.

“Strange, why were there no tremors?”

Leylin came to sudden realization, “this must be the work of the Magi of Teljose City?”

“Correct, continue to look!” Jenna pointed towards the black clouds, “Magus’ blessing will soon descend!”

Rumble!

A soft rain was arising, tiny droplets of black rain were falling through the breeze.

Black rain fell on the ground, turning the whole ground ashen grey.

Soon a couple of farmers ran out from the fields, kneeled in front of Leylin, Jenna and other Magi and kowtowed respectfully as they said, “We thank our lords, the Magi, for our harvest!”

“This is volcanic ash?!”

Leylin’s body started to emit grey light, it enveloped the giant steed and kept the black rain on the outside. He extended his right hand to collect a drop of grey rain drop and started to examine it.

“Looks like some artificial things have been added to it, it resembles nitrogen-based fertilizer!”

Volcanic ash was naturally nutrient-rich, which was conducive for plant growth. Coupled with some other things the magicians had added, it was

no wonder crops here had an astonishing form and output.

“That’s right, the Magi control the Teljose Volcano’s eruption. They transport and evenly distribute the volcanic ash across the plains and fertilize the land. As for resources such as geothermal energy, the Magi will collect them and convert them into a source of power for Teljose City. Hence, the alternate name for Teljose City that I love even more – Nightless City!”

Jenna explained

“..... This technology is simply amazing!” Leylin murmured. Teljose Volcano, as compared to the biggest volcano Leylin saw before his reincarnation, was much broader. To control such a big live volcano, they needed constant maintenance and magic spell formations, which exceeded what Leylin could have thought of.

Furthermore, to directly control a volcano as a power source and a place to live... This kind of design and boldness left Leylin feeling admiration towards these Magi.

“But, please forgive my bluntness, I’ve once travelled to the eastern region. The magicians there don’t seem to spare a thought for the normal people...”

Leylin properly expressed his curiosity.

“Yes, magicians are a group of intellectual people. They did this because it was for their benefit.” Jenna nodded her head. “The way we see it, the normal people that are alive are also a type of resource. Besides, as long as there is sufficient people, they can serve us at all times, procuring resources, and in addition, sow our seeds and producing acolytes of excellent quality, increasing new bloods...”

“Hence, in the middle of our light Magi region, not only were there Magi who specialised in solidification innate spells to be used for helping to prevent all kinds of natural disasters, there’s even a full-time Magus in charge of farming land and increasing harvest yield...”

“This... this really is...”

Leylin wore a shocked expression while secretly releasing a breath of relief.

Although Jenna seemed pure and straightforward, she still considered herself superior to regular humans, similar to how the dark Magi thought.

The one difference they had was in their system.

Akin to the herding of sheep, dark Magi tended to operate in a more boorish manner and would reap the harvest at irregular intervals. In comparison, light Magi adopted a micro-management style, taking special care of each and every sheep.

But they both had the same purpose – to obtain the needed materials from regular humans.

Just based on this process, Leylin felt that the regular humans in the light Magi region had a more comfortable life, compared to those living in Poolfield Kingdom.

However, although Leylin could lament over the hardships faced by the regular humans, it did not mean that he thought of reducing the power and authority that the Magi held; it was foolish to advocate an ideal of achieving equality between all humans.

Not mentioning the mysteries and strength of the Magus world, even Leylin himself only believed in one truth – that one's status would determine one's course of action.

Leylin himself was a Magus and fully supported the privileges and political power that all Magi had. As for those who had delusions of overthrowing the Magi in power, they would be killed immediately.

As part of a higher tier in the social pyramid, it was only natural to consciously defend the rights and privileges of that social class.

Naturally, there were also the strange ones who chose to betray their peer's interests, and would eventually be abandoned by their own peers.

Leylin concluded that: unless there were any signs of the Magi falling out of power, he would definitely not betray his peers.

“Very surprising, isn’t it?”

Jenna laughed, “Seems like you’ve always been travelling around the dark Magi region. But once you’ve arrived at the Nightless City, you’ll need to learn to acclimatize, and adapt to the new rules...”

Jenna’s words implied that she had discovered Leylin’s true identity.

But Leylin only picked up his eyebrow and didn’t seem to care in the slightest.

Teljose City, or reputed for being a Nightless City, on one hand was the accumulation of the light Magi’s hard work, and on the other hand was supported by the dark Magi.

If the dark Magi was totally removed, then Nightless City’s total trades would immediately fall by more than half!

No trade center would reject a dark Magi member from joining them.

Chapter 147: Prophecy

From what Leylin gathered, dark Magi from all over the continent disguised themselves in order to enter Nightless City each day. Their aim was to trade items, amongst other activities.

The guards of the city turned a blind eye to their actions.

It could be said that Nightless City's prosperity was largely dependent on the dark Magi.

Within the city, as long as dark Magi did not intentionally reveal their identity, light Magi would not bother about them.

Hence, Leylin simply smiled and told Jenna, "I came to the Teljose Plains to seek a peaceful way of life. I'm willing to abide by the rules here."

"Nightless City is a fertile and beautiful city. I'm sure you'll like it here!"

Jenna laughed and said.

Leylin made small talk with Jenna and managed to gather quite a lot of exclusive information about the city.

Leylin had seen a glimpse of Volcano City in the afternoon, but it was only after the sky dimmed that he reached the gate.

At the moment, there were rows of people queueing up in front of the gates of the city.

The numerous heads seemed like ants as they were separated into different groups and entered various entrances.

Leylin noticed that beside the many small doors, there were also several huge passages. The gates to the city itself were over ten metres high, and the passageways were closed.

"These doors are for giants and large creatures, so they aren't usually open!" Jenna explained at the side.

"As for us, we are official Magi, so we are able to enter by the prestigious pass!"

Jenna explained as she led Leylin to a smaller door which was quieter.

As for the doors on both sides, there were even a dozen guards with the strength of level 3 acolytes, their bodies radiating the energy waves of their magic artifacts.

“Respected Lords, may I ask if it is a temporary or permanent lodging...”

After seeing Leylin and Jenna, these dozen acolytes immediately bowed and greeted them.

Leylin noticed that they held a circular item that was emitting the glow of a magic spell, in their hands. Looking at the runes on the surface, it should be the runes formation to detect energy waves.

Jenna immediately raised her right hand and revealed a white ring on her finger.

The ancient ring had a silver body with detailed inscriptions on the surface, constantly emitting bits and pieces of light.

“So it’s a Lord who has a permanent residence. Please enter!” The acolytes respectfully made way.

“It’s my first time here. Are there any procedures I need to follow?” Leylin asked the acolyte from before.

“Yes. For magicians who enter for the first time, we have a simple procedure. You can pay 200 magic crystals and obtain permanent residence, or spend 10 magic crystals and stay in Nightless City for a month!”

“Handle a permanent residence for me!” Leylin immediately tossed out two high-grade magic crystals.

“Of course. Please wait a moment...” The acolyte quickly produced a piece of parchment and scribbled something on it. “May I have your name?”

“Leylin Farlier!” This was the light Magi’s territory and the Lilytell Family’s influence did not extend to this area. Leylin decided to use his real name.

“Here is your token. Please keep it well!”

The whole process was surprisingly straightforward. The acolyte merely asked for Leylin’s name, noted it down, and then passed him a silver ring.

“This is a token you will need to enter the city. Please keep it safe! Also, please do not linger on the streets after 12am. If not, the law enforcement group will apprehend you!”

The acolyte reminded him as he bowed.

Leylin nodded in understanding before leaving with Jenna, who had been waiting at the side.

“Jenna, I’ve been waiting for you!” Leylin went through a passage that was around five or six metres deep, and before he even had the chance to look around the city, he heard a hoarse voice.

A burly blonde man who had been standing at the door for some time immediately rushed forward with a worried expression.

“Uncle Manla!” Jenna put on a coquettish expression and immediately embraced the large man. “Jenna missed you!”

“Haha...Me too!” The burly man smiled and looked at Leylin beside her.

“This fellow reeks of blood, it seems like he’s from the eastern marshes!”

The murderous aura and strong scent of blood from Leylin’s body immediately caused the man to raise his guard against Leylin. He positioned himself between Leylin and Jenna.

“This is...” The burly man’s glared at him, as if ready to make a move the moment he misspoke.

“This is Leylin, someone I met along the way!” Jenna hung on to Manla’s arm.

“He’s a wandering Magus who is planning to stay in Nightless City!”

“Really? This is a city that advocates peace and harmony, so I hope you’ll enjoy your stay here. Here is a complete map of the city!”

The burly man showed him a kind smile and passed the map to Leylin. It

was very obvious that he did not want Leylin to travel together with Jenna.

“Many thanks!” Leylin grinned brightly.

He could understand where the man was coming from. If he were a parent who saw his child mixing with a suspicious person, he would have the same reaction.

“It was great fun travelling with you! I’ll see you again, milady!” Leylin turned to Jenna with a smile and gave a gentleman’s bow, and Jenna answered with a bashful expression.

Having received the map, Leylin took a quick look at it and entered the trade centre of the south coast, also known as the Teljose Volcano City, where the night was as bright as day.

The burly man waited till Leylin was completely gone before turning to the female Magus, a stern expression on his face.

“Jenna, from what I know, you don’t usually get this close with strangers?”

The large man put on a puzzled expression.

“I don’t know why, but I have some premonition that makes me want to get closer to him...” Jenna’s eyes seemed to cloud over.

“Or perhaps, this is what fate decreed!”

“That seems plausible!” The man scratched his head. “The high-grade meditation technique that you’re cultivating in may not be very powerful, but at times, it is able to accurately pinpoint a trace of the future. Since that Magus gives you such a peculiar feeling, do you need me to send someone to check out...”

“Leave it! I have a feeling that if we do that, it’ll definitely incur his displeasure.”

Jenna’s eyes suddenly turned completely white, with no hints of any other colour.

“Twice! You actually made two prophecies about him!”

The burly man looked shocked. “That Magus’ fate is sure to be intertwined with yours!”

“Not me, but the whole of the south coast!”

The female Magus’ eyes regained their colour, cold sweat pouring down her face. She looked as if all of her energy had been wrenched from her.

“Quick, send me back to grandmother’s place!”

Jenna spat out and immediately fainted.

“Jenna! Jenna!” The expression on the burly man’s face was grim as he held her in his arms and quickly left the area...

Leylin, however, was completely oblivious to the situation. He was currently strolling through the streets of the Nightless City.

The moment he entered, Leylin’s first impression was—People! A sea of people!

Numerous heads were gathered close to each other, forming a sea of blackness. There were also various stores, as well as stands that were messily displayed. The constant haggling and bawling noises attacked the ears.

Many Magi and acolytes who were dressed in different coloured clothing were arguing aggressively with the vendors.

This almost reminded Leylin of the markets in his previous world.

However, the different races that he saw within the masses brought him back to the present.

There was the scaly marine race, the sub-humans with fur and marks all over their bodies, the smaller version of giants who were over five meters tall, as well as the little green people who had pairs of transparent wings on their backs, dancing gracefully in the air.

Many lifeforms from the Magus world were communicating with each other, their speech slipping back to parts of their own languages.

Among the humans, Leylin even saw several regular humans who had

absolutely no energy waves radiating from them, and yet they were still confidently trading items on the street out in the open.

“My Lord, is it your first time in Nightless City?”

Leylin’s intrigued expression naturally attracted the attention of many people. A man who was so skinny that he was like a stick approached Leylin as he bowed, wearing a flattering expression on his face.

“Do you need a tour guide? My fee is definitely the lowest. Moreover, my home is within Nightless City, so I am familiar with every nook and cranny in this place!”

“Are you the ‘ears’ of this city?”

Leylin inquired to clarify.

“Of course. If there is anything that you want to know, I could also make some inquiries...”

“What is your name?” Leylin asked.

“Sean! My Lord, you can call me Sean.” The thin man was delighted as this situation meant it was possible to seal the deal.

“Good. I wish to stay here for an extended period of time. Take me to a place where I can rent some lodgings. It must have all the facilities!”

“If you wish to stay here for long, renting an apartment which is in the heart of Nightless City would be the most worthwhile!” Sean said quickly without needing to think.

As if fearing that Leylin did not understand, Sean quickly went on, “The heart of the city is controlled by several large factions that back Nightless City. There are different types of apartments for sale, and they are generally quite safe and convenient...”

“Very well, let’s go there!”

Leylin nodded his head, and Sean hurriedly led the way with a gleeful expression.

After going through the throng of people and walking for about half an

hour, Sean brought Leylin to a small door.

“Nightless City has five zones, and the outermost zone is meant for regular people and acolytes to live in. Its organisation is the most chaotic, and as long as one is in possession of a token, he or she can enter and leave the city at will.”

“The second zone is reserved for those who have done the paperwork to stay here permanently. Of course, Official Magi are allowed to stay here too!” Sean brought Leylin to the queue in front of the door and explained further.

“As for the third and fourth zone, they are the residences of the official Magi. There is also a trade area specifically catered to the official Magi erected within the zone.”

“Lastly, we have the fifth zone, where various powers have established their branches there. Usually, they are not open to the public and if you are not a member, you are not allowed to enter!”

Sean gave Leylin a clear explanation.

Chapter 148: The Communal Centre

The queue progressed quickly, and within a few minutes, it was Leylin's turn.

Leylin produced the ring he had recently acquired, and showed it to the guard, who respectfully stepped aside to allow him to pass.

The second zone was a lot bigger than the first, and the shops were arranged in an organised manner, unlike the situation in the first zone.

Thud Thud

His leather shoes thudded as they descended upon the marble floor.

With Sean's guidance, Leylin arrived at the centre of the second zone.

What was known as the communal centre was situated at the middle of the second zone. It was a humongous building that, based on its outward appearance, looked like a person's inverted palm pressed to the ground.

Each of those fingers was a wide entrance.

Magicians formed long lines, looking like ants as they constantly went through the entrances.

"This is where the Nightless City's internal affairs are conducted. These includes the renting of lodgings, the applications for store licenses, the issuing of missions, and so on."

Sean brought Leylin into the passageway on the forefinger.

"This is the second passage that is specially catered for the Magi who wish to rent lodgings. Of course, we also provide property agents, though the price will be higher and the rentals may not be of the best quality..."

"Sir, would you like to rent a lodging? Come to Old Hork's place! Our facilities are complete, and there are even snake and fox girls who will serve you!"

"No! Come to our side. Our prices are the most reasonable here, and we're even willing to gift you ten regular human servants."

The moment Leylin entered, he attracted the attentions of multiple agents, who all looked ready to gobble him down.

“He’s my customer! Get out of the way! Move!”

Sean guided Leylin to a passageway nearby, pushing away the overzealous hands reaching for him.

Within the passage was a spiral staircase. When they got to the second level, Leylin suddenly realised how quiet his surroundings were.

As they passed through a door frame that read “Hall No. 762,” Leylin saw a large domed hall.

On the ceiling, there was a huge crystal chandelier from which multicoloured rays of light bounced off, casting a phantom image on the ground.

To the side of the domed hall, there were many counters, and a few seats meant for people to wait in. A few magicians were already seated, their eyes glazed over as if they were about to fall asleep.

On the right wall, there was also a black screen. There were words in red on it which were constantly being refreshed.

“Apartment #332, West Hall Street West, small sized – costs 6700 magic crystals!”

“Apartment #893, Flamingo Street, of medium size – costs 85000 magic crystals!”

“These lodgings are all second-hand. The prices here are considerably cheaper, and many people wait here, hoping they might be lucky enough to get a good price...” Seeing the look of interest on Leylin’s face, he launched into an explanation.

Leylin was speechless, the thought of a real estate agency from his past life suddenly came to his mind.

“If you wish to rent an apartment, you can proceed to counters 1 to 15. Would you like me to queue on your behalf?”

“Fine,” Leylin nodded.

Even though he had quite a sum at hand, he was unwilling to splurge on an apartment so quickly, when he had not yet made sense of the situation in Nightless City.

Seeing all of these ridiculously high prices made Leylin think of the acolytes back in the academy who were so desperate for magic crystals that they wished a magic crystal was worth twice its actual value. The image made him want to cry and laugh at the same time.

There were many counters in the hall. After Sean left to join a queue, Leylin found himself a seat and began to flip through one of the magazines left on a table.

“Rose Sanctuary and Fresh Blood White Bones are currently in a conflict. They are currently gathered in Margaret City, and the number of casualties is unknown...”

“It has been reported that magicians have found the culprit that caused the tsunami in the Eastern Sea—an Ancient Whale. Currently, Ennea Ivory Ring Tower is holding an emergency meeting to discuss countermeasures...”

“Looking to purchase large quantities of purified gems. Name your price.”

There was plenty of news in the magazine, though they seemed outdated. Furthermore, the majority of the content was on advertisements, sponsorships and the like.

“Sir, it’s your turn now!”

Sean’s voice travelled over. Leylin put down the magazine, heading to the 13th counter where Sean was standing.

“Welcome! How may I help you?”

Behind the counter was an adorable girl with a professional smile on her face, who was wearing something that was similar to lace. She seemed quite young, and Leylin guessed that she was, at most, eighteen or nineteen years old.

Leylin's gaze shifted to the back of the counter, where he caught a glimpse of the white ball behind the maiden's shapely backside.

"Of all the half beasts, someone who's half-rabbit?" Leylin chuckled inwardly, not expecting the centre to actually hire a rabbit maiden.

"I wish to rent a house. The facilities must be complete, and it is best if it includes a laboratory, and the defensive spell formation has to be of at least this standard..."

Leylin stated his requirements.

"Please wait for a moment..." The rabbit maiden quickly flipped through the stack of parchments in front of her, closing her eyes from time to time while caressing a crystal ball with a metal base, as if she was communicating with someone.

"We have many houses that fit your requirements, but in order to rent a lodging in Nightless City, we require you to show evidence of... Ah! My lord! My sincerest apologies!"

Upon seeing the silver ring that Leylin revealed, the rabbit maiden's previously absent-minded expression completely changed.

She stood and bowed, showing her charming body and sturdy thighs, and the rabbit's tail behind her backside occasionally appearing. It gave one the urge to reach forward and grab hold of it. "So it was an official Magi! Please excuse Bayjess' rude behaviour!"

"It's fine. Tell me about the houses!"

Leylin withdrew his right hand.

"For an official Magus of such high esteem, we strongly recommend apartments that are in the third zone or above. There is a total of thirteen empty houses that meet your requirements..."

As she spoke, she continued to rub the surface of the blue crystal ball.

Rainbow coloured lights converged in front of Leylin and the multicoloured streaks formed many three-dimensional figures.

From the looks of it, it was a map of Nightless City, on which there were

thirteen bright spots.

“All information about the apartments are on it, and there are also figures that allow you to view the structures of the lodgings.”

Leylin took a quick look. All of the apartments were in the second zone or above, and the total area of the land was rather large. They were at least medium sized villas that included gardens and other entertainment facilities.

Nightless City was built on a mountain, and the higher up one went, the more valuable every inch became. In a place like this, the privileges and extravagant lifestyle that magicians were entitled to were especially evident from the area of land they had access to.

Leylin raised his hand and pressed on the villa that he was interested in.
Ding!

With a flash of white light, the model was magnified, and a three-dimensional figure was displayed in front of him.

“Medium-sized villa’s location: Nightless City Zone 3, Large Whale Street #56. It includes a laboratory, a defensive spell formation, a negative energy reaction pool...”

Beside the 3D figure, there was also a white frame that displayed more information about the villa.

“While this technology is based on magic, it’s just too similar to how it was in my past life...”

Leylin suddenly sighed.

While the foundations of the two worlds were extremely different, one being science, and the other being magic, it somehow made Leylin feel a little nostalgic.

“I’ll take this one. How much is the rent?”

Leylin pointed to one of the models and asked the rabbit maiden.

“Sir, the rent for this villa is a thousand magic crystals per month...” She

peeked at Leylin, looking as if she wanted to say something, and eventually made her mind. “If you join any one of the powers backing Nightless City, you’ll be gifted a villa, and...”

“Alright. Which family do you come from?”

Leylin was very much aware that these employees were part of the powers behind Nightless City, and it was naturally their job to attract talents. They were sure to receive attractive rewards for their work if they were successful.

“The Mordeken family! I come from the Mordeken Family!” The rabbit maiden lowered her collar and revealed a brand in the shape of a palm under her shoulder.

The shape of the palm was a little strange. Instead of having five fingers, as was the norm, there were actually six.

The sides of the brand were a little charred and twisted. From the looks of it, a branding iron had been used directly on her skin in the past. The contrast between that and the rabbit maiden’s delicate skin gave rise to an abnormal sense of beauty.

“I understand! If there’s anything I need in the future, I’ll consider the Mordeken family first!”

Leylin’s expression remained the same, seemingly unmoved by her attempts. Sean, on the other hand, was salivating at the offer.

“Here are the magic crystals. I’ll be renting it for a year.” Leylin threw a small bag of magic crystals towards the back of the counter.

After being rejected, the rabbit maiden’s expression slightly darkened, but she immediately forced a smile.

Even though she wasn’t able to convince an official Magus to join the family, she would still receive some rewards from this transaction.

The rabbit maiden asked for the ring on Leylin’s finger, and placed it in a device behind her, within which an exotic symbol was inscribed. She then respectfully returned it to Leylin.

“The pattern of the villa’s defensive spell formation has already been marked onto your ring. You may enter the villa using the ring, and also make changes to the spell formation...”

Following which, the rabbit maiden passed Leylin a bunch of keys and a document.

“Here are the keys to the rooms in the villa, as well as some important information. I hope you have a pleasant stay there!”

Leylin retrieved the items and walked out of the hall with Sean.

“He actually spent over ten thousand magic crystals in one go...”

Sean still had a look of disbelief on his face.

Although he had heard of how certain magicians were able to spend unimaginable amounts of wealth, being in actual contact with someone who had the means to do so was still an entirely different feeling.

“Having met such a magnanimous customer, my rewards will definitely not be meagre. I might even be able to get a generous tip as well...”

Sean began to let his imagination run wild.

“Bring me to the villa and these will be yours!”

Leylin smiled, tossing a few magic crystals that were glistening temptingly.

“Of course! Your wish is my command!”

Sean’s eyes brightened, and he quickly ran to the front. “Please follow me! There’s not one place in Nightless City that I, Sean, am not aware of!”

Chapter 149: Trifling Issues

Rumble!

Crystal clear spring water continuously flowed from a white canteen.

Under the white canteen was a half-nude marble statue. The statue was depicting a poised, long-haired maiden. In her eyes, there was an expression of indolence and perplexity. One hand was tugging on the skirt on her lower body, and the other hand was holding a white canteen upside down.

The spring water gathered below, forming a small pond. Different colored pebbles and fishes in the pool were reflecting the light.

Next to the pond were was a small garden. Inside the garden were different coloured flowers of unknown names. Different fragrances were mixed together, but it didn't feel jumbled; instead it provided a unique scent that made one feel refreshed.

Leylin leisurely walked around the garden before returning to the villa.

This was the new villa that he had recently rented for a year. The address was: Nightless City Zone 3, Large Whale Street #56.

There were very strict regulations for each of the three zones.

The zones above the third one were only for official Magi and trade, with the exception of some specialised servants that were permitted to pass through.

This villa had a huge area, and its magic defenses against spells were also strong. According to Leylin, a level 3 acolyte, or even an official Magus, would have no chances of entering. If they wanted to destroy this place, it would require a huge amount of effort from them.

However, Leylin still wanted to add some modifications and more defensive spell formations to this place.

Regarding the spell formations that the Nightless City had, Leylin didn't trust them enough.

In the area around Leylin's villa, there was another Magi. Previously, there was even a red haired old man who waved to Leylin. He seemed quite friendly.

Click!

The sound of a copper key entering the lock could be heard, followed by the sound of a door opening with a squeak.

With his hands clasped behind his back, Leylin leisurely strolled around his villa.

This villa had 3 floors, two of them being above ground, and also a basement.

The apparatuses in the lab were very complete, and the furniture and other things were up to date, making Leylin feel that he had truly received his money's worth.

The bedroom was on the second floor and even had an open balcony.

Leylin stood on the balcony and observed the distant scenery.

The sun was setting; the dark curtain of night gradually enveloping the surroundings.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

By the side of the road, one lantern after another was being lit, extending far into the distance.

The little spots of light had an effect as they lit together, finally forming a huge body of light.

A bright – but not blinding – light flooded the entirety of the Nightless City.

“No wonder that Teljose City was referred to as the Nightless City!” Leylin exclaimed.

While he was used to this kind of setting in his previous life, the Magus world was different. A huge amount of energy was needed to be able to support this many lights, and perhaps only the volcano's never-ending

geothermal energy could barely support the city's needs.

Ding!

Something like an incandescent light bulb lit up inside Leylin's room.

"All of this energy, this overbearing splendor, is provided by the communal centre free of charge!"

Leylin shook his head and commanded, "A.I. Chip scan the whole villa, and in addition, try to modify the defensive spell formations!"

Following Leylin's command, a spot of glittering and sparkling blue light flashed in his eyes.

[Beep! The overall layout of the villa has been recorded, no tracking spells have been detected!]

The response from the A.I. Chip came after a very short amount of time.

[According to the Host's request, modifying the spell formation of the entire villa allows an optimization of 13%...]

Afterwards, the A.I. Chip projected the places where the spell formation needed to be altered in front of Leylin's eyes.

"Spell formations requires extreme fine-tuning, and once they are altered, even the places where they were previously concealed will be exposed..."

With a confident smile, Leylin brought out some materials from his bag in order to alter the villa's spell formations.

By the time that Leylin had hurriedly finished his work, it was already midnight.

Leylin then placed a warning spell outside his bedroom, before reclining on his soft bed.

The effort of constantly running while covering his back to prevent assassination attempts from the Lilytell Family had caused Leylin to be mentally exhausted.

Now that he had finally reached his destination, even the Lilytell family

couldn't do anything inside the Nightless City. Leylin felt like a huge mountain had been lifted from his shoulders, allowing him to relax completely.

“Speaking of which, I only have these things left ever since I left the academy...”

Leylin opened the package and emptied its contents onto the bed.

A silver colored metallic hoop, a couple of separately packaged flowers and such, and an assortment of different materials and magic crystals appeared in front of Leylin.

First, Leylin brought out the metallic hoop.

This was the spoil of his fight against the clone. It was a counterfeit Hoop of Imprisonment recovered from the body of the Lilytell elder's clone. Even if it was a counterfeit, this magic artifact was still a middle-grade artifact. At that time, if it wasn't for the fact that Leylin had activated his Fallen Star Pendant, he might not have been able to escape the confinement of this magic artifact.

According to the A.I. Chip, there were no hidden traps, so Leylin took it for his own use. He was planning to later alter it, or just simply sell it.

Ever since Leylin's advancement, the A.I. Chip also received a huge upgrade.

A lot of things that he couldn't discern back when he was an acolyte were now laid bare before him.

That Lilytell elder was simply at the level of a rank 1 Magus, and couldn't hide anything from Leylin.

“Also, these ingredients need to be used soon. I've kept them for too long, and their medicinal properties are decreasing...”

Leylin looked at the several remaining stalks of plants and flowers which were under some preservation spells.

This was his loot from the Dylan Gardens. Previously, he had harvested them in a hurry, so their current appearance was not too pretty.

Afterwards, he had been on the run, so he could not find much time to add more layers of preservation and maintenance spells. Hence, they currently were in a rather withered and dried up state.

A black diary lay quietly at the side. It was the Book of Giant Serpent, and even now Leylin had to flip through it every once in a while.

Although he had recorded everything with the A.I. Chip, Leylin still felt that the methods of the great Magus Serholm did not just end with the writings.

Moreover, the materials used to make the Book of Giant Serpent were extremely strange. The amount of information it could store was alarming, which gave Leylin the urge to conduct more research on it.

What was left was the Fallen Star Pendant hanging on Leylin's neck, as well as some magic crystals and some other miscellaneous items.

Everything that was present, if added together, was all of what Leylin had.

"A rank 1 Warlock wishing to advance must never lack in the meditation and bloodlines. If not, just based on hard work, it is simply too difficult. One requires the aid of resources!"

High-grade meditation technique required precious resources as a complement and they were extremely precious. Some even existed only back in ancient times, and they have been extinct by now.

Leylin summed up his wealth and realised that he would at most lead a comfortable life in Nightless City. If he thought of relying on what he currently had to obtain enough resources to advance into a rank 2 Warlock, it was no difference from a pipe dream.

Subconsciously, he looked at his current stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 28.4, Magic Power: 28 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 1%. Status: Healthy]

Every day, Leylin did not neglect his cultivation in a high-grade meditation technique. The Kemoyin's Pupil was indeed a well-suited meditation technique for his bloodline. Leylin could feel that his spiritual force was growing at a steady pace daily.

As for the progress of the elemental essence conversion, it was not that satisfying.

“According to the records of the meditation technique, the conversion progress is more difficult the higher it is. The stages of a semi-converted elemental Magus of 50% and a Magus with an elemental essence conversion of 80% especially are two bottlenecks. I wonder how many Magi had been obstructed from advancement because of this!”

Leylin's face was somewhat solemn, “Right now my spiritual force could be increased with a high-grade meditation technique, and my bloodline is extremely pure. These two aspects do not require further planning for now. The only thing holding me back right now is the progress of the elemental essence conversion!”

The breakthrough of a high-grade meditation technique will often lead a Magus to breakthrough automatically. Right now Leylin had 3 levels of the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique, so his spiritual force progress would just be a breeze.

As for the aspect of bloodlines, he had obtained the purified blood of an ancient creature, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. This creature, in its mature stages, could reach the level of a rank 4 Magus – a Morning Star Magus.

Right now Leylin was just a rank 1 Warlock, and with respect to the concentration of his bloodline – it could most likely surpass a pre-pubescent Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Every day, he could feel the strength of the bloodline affecting his body. According to Leylin's estimations, his second transition stage ever since obtaining the bloodline was soon approaching.

These two aspects left Leylin extremely satisfied. The one thing slowing down his progress was the elemental essence conversion.

The elemental essence conversion progress seemed to have something

to do with the aptitude of a Magus' soul. As for Leylin, he only had a third-grade aptitude, which was a common, middle tiered aptitude.

The higher the aptitude of a soul, the faster the conversion would naturally become. People like Leylin could only slowly improve through the passing of time.

Leylin was, however, on the wanted list of a Magus family, so naturally, he did not want such a slow progress.

Apart from relying on time to progress, some precious ingredients could also hasten the progress of the elemental essence conversion.

However, Leylin looked at the ingredients on his bed.

"The Book of Giant Serpent must never be sold! The Fallen Star Pendant and Hoop of Imprisonment are rather handy for me at this stage, and are also magic artifacts which I'm lacking, so I cannot sell them too."

"The only choice left are these plants and the amassed magic crystals from before!"

Leylin was somewhat frustrated.

These items would at the most exchange for only a few of the resources he needed. His current situation was akin to pouring a cup of water on a burning cart of firewood.

Right now, he was reminiscing about the Dylan Gardens.

That was a secret plane left behind by a rank 4 Warlock. Just the harvest each year was worth a million magic crystals! With it, Leylin would not have to worry about the resources needed to advance to a rank 2 Warlock.

It was a pity, however, that the Dylan Gardens was destroyed by a self-destruct formation left by the great Magus Serholm.

"Perhaps, he did not wish for his inheritor to obtain too many items, for fear of losing the will for improvement!" Leylin surmised.

Chapter 150: Crystals

After hastily keeping the items on his bed, Leylin performed his routine meditation, then fell into a slumber.

It was a very deep sleep. When he finally woke up, it was already midday of the next day.

Leylin thought for a while, dressed up in a comfortable gown, and headed into the wilderness.

Along the path between the villas, Leylin followed the map he had obtained the day before, and walked towards the fourth level of the Nightless City.

“Good day sir!”

The red-headed old geezer, whom he met yesterday, was pruning his lawn. Upon seeing Leylin approach, he smiled and greeted Leylin.

“Hello!” Leylin felt a strong spiritual force propagating from within the old red headed geezer’s body. It did not feel like that of a budding Magus but that of someone who had halted in rank for a long time, and had accumulated a lot of essence.

Furthermore, looking at the traces of energy particles hovering around the old geezer, the A.I. Chip had estimated that he was at least a semi-converted elemental Magus.

The old geezer’s power level was similar to that of the clone from the Lilytell family that had been hunting Leylin.

“I wonder, what is his true battle prowess?”

The light Magi were better in the matters of theory and research. Leylin did not get the slightest feeling of similarity of a dark Magus from the old geezer. Obviously, he was a light Magus.

Being in a higher state does not necessarily mean that the fighting capabilities are high too. This was proved by the fact that despite having an elemental conversion of only 1%, Leylin managed to barely defeat a

semi converted elemental Magus.

“My name is Crew. It has been a long time since any new neighbours have moved in!”

The old geezer smiled and placed his shears on the ground. From the looks of it, he was very excited to see Leylin.

“I am Leylin, and I have just arrived at Nightless City. It is a tranquil city and I love it here!”

Leylin bowed slightly as a sign of respect.

From the old geezer’s body, Leylin felt a sense of peace. The old geezer also had a heavy scent of books and scrolls, and had the temperament of a scholar

In the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, all of the instructors brought about an air of intractable chill. The acolytes were afraid of them.

“Haha...you made a good choice!”

Upon hearing Leylin’s words, the old geezer’s wrinkly face creased with laughter.

“Where are you headed?” The old geezer sat down on a stool in the gardens. “Would you like to drink some red tea with an old geezer?”

“No thanks, I would like to have a stroll in the city and take a look at the trading district!”

Leylin rejected the old geezer’s suggestion with a smile on his face and left the area.

“This is really a peaceful city, maybe I should stay here for awhile!”

Leylin wandered around the streets.

The third zone of the Nightless City was very different from the first two zones, especially the Magi’s quarters. All of the villas were widely spaced, and they were adorned with eye-catching symbols.

Besides, the third zone’s city walls were constructed using meteorites.

The meteorites were not only visually attractive, but were also capable of

absorbing loose energy and radiation.

According to estimations from the A.I. Chip, the city walls exceeded an amount of two million magic crystals to construct. It left Leylin speechless.

There were significantly less people in the third zone. Occasionally, official Magi and their attendants could be spotted.

Leylin even spotted a few bodies that were intertwined with the energy of vengeful spirits and fresh blood.

Obviously, Leylin was spotted by the others as well. It was easy for those of the same kind to spot each other.

However, due to the rules of the Nightless City, and perhaps for other reasons as well, Leylin and the other dark Magi only exchanged looks from the distance, and left their positions in haste.

Leylin reached the fourth zone of the city after passing through a heavily guarded gate.

Many different types of stores dotted the vicinity. Occasionally, Magi could be spotted entering and exiting the stores.

The Magi that passed through the area had energy levels of official Magi and above. Not a single acolyte was seen.

“From the looks of it, this is the trading district set up for official Magi!”

Leylin was very pleased. The light Magi region was the trade center of the south coast, and Nightless City was one of the biggest cities within it. Congregated in here was some of the best the south coast had to offer. With an endless amount of resources available, it would definitely satisfy his needs.

Leylin looked around at the various store signs as he walked along the path towards the center.

“Old Gelling’s medicine store!” “Cape of good hope refined gold goods!” “Clothes manufacturing shop” “Refined gemstones store” “Mythical creature trading store...”

Leylin was bewildered by the large variety of shops available.

However, he followed the information obtained yesterday, and made a beeline straight towards the fourth zone's central plaza.

Smack dab in the middle of the district packed full of stores was a large open plaza. Eighteen pillars that were as thick as the human skull were erected around it.

Occasionally, there were Magi on the plaza using their hands to feel the pillars with their eyes shut. It was as if they were interacting with something.

Some of the Magi that looked directionless and lost gained a sense of purpose in their movements after interacting with the pillars. They hurried along their way out of the market or towards a certain shop.

"We have reached the trade plaza!"

Leylin let out a gasp, and a flash of expectation came over him.

Following which, he queued behind a red-robed, middle-aged man.

There were only a scant few Magi on the plaza, so Leylin's turn came quickly.

Leylin took in a deep breath, and stood in front of the pillar, his palms pressing upon it.

Buzz Buzz!

The moment his palms felt the rough stones on the pillar, Leylin experienced an extremely ice-cold spiritual force creep from the pillar and bore into his forehead.

Leylin's skin slightly stretched, and a few streaks of dark rays passed by. He felt as if he had been suppressed while the spiritual force bore into him.

"Data transmission interface detected, awaiting permission to enter"

"Allow it!" Leylin commanded.

Following which, a large amount of scripts and diagrams were circulated

into Leylin's mind like a message. The information converged into what seemed like a hefty book.

Leylin's spiritual force gingerly touched the book and flipped to the first page.

"Material types" "Finished goods types" "Knowledge types" "Potion types"...

What entered his vision first was a densely packed index catalogue. Leylin hesitated for a while, before opening the "Knowledge types" segment.

Bang!

A silver light flashed. Following which, a lot of sub-clauses appeared before Leylin's eyes.

"High level dwarf enchanting studies"

"Comprehensive details for flame runes"

"Introduction to crafting of medicines"

"Soul research data"

.....

Many different branches of high-level academic knowledge appeared before Leylin.

There were many branches of discipline which Leylin himself had never heard of before. The names appeared to be very strange to him.

"However, there was no data on high level meditation. There was also no information in regards to the advancement of a Magus. It looked like it was intentionally hidden..."

With a slight flash in his eyes, Leylin turned to the "Material types" section.

Blue-gold stone, bayern flower, essence of wilted tree, black rose, heart of light blue lizard. There were many materials, some of which he had never heard of before, and some of which even had depictions that were very

realistic looking.

“Search—crystallised Darkness energy particles!”

Following which, the majority of the data disappeared, and only a few lines of information from the hefty book remained.

“Looking to buy egg of a Fire Ingesting Bird at a favourable price, can choose from the following for trade: I have wood spirit 200 grams, crystallised Darkness energy particles 100 grams, Firestone 800 grams, Rotten Cloud medicine, and various types of liquids...”

“Store sells the following: crystallised Darkness energy particles, dragon grass, ghastly sunflower...”

On the hefty book, only these two statements appeared. It looked pathetic.

“There is only such a minute amount, and one of them only accepts the egg of a Fire Ingesting Bird for trade!”

Leylin frowned.

In order to increase the elemental conversion rate, other than relying on hard work, the A.I. Chip suggested that he could also ingest crystallised energy particles that suited his elemental affinity.

This sort of high energy concentration crystals were only formed in nature under very strict elemental conversion criteria.

Once a Magus ingested the crystals, he would be able to increase the rate of his elemental conversion.

Through this method, Leylin would be able to rapidly increase his elemental conversion rate, and fix his shortcomings.

However, these type of crystals were very valuable. Furthermore, the Darkness elemental ones were very rare, causing the whole database to only contain two lines of information in response to his query.

“Whatever. This is better than having to go search for the information myself.”

While Leylin was using his spiritual force to reply to the message selling the crystals, a small messaged appeared: Elm Street #231!

This was the address of the shop from earlier.

Leylin threw a high-grade magic crystal into the stone pillar's interface.

A considerable fee was needed when information was obtained from the trading plaza. Leylin rolled his eyes at the fact that the profitable areas were dominated by the powers behind the Nightless City.

Upon analyzing the situation, Leylin found that he was not willing to part with another high grade magic crystal to obtain the contact information of the trader requesting the egg of fire ingesting bird.

After leaving the trade plaza, Leylin found the small shop written on the message in no time.

The tiny shop was rather inconveniently located in a small alley. If not for the definite address, Leylin would not have found it.

The shop was dimly lit and its floor was dusty.

The racks in the store were filled with transparent glass jars. Different types of organs and tissues were submerged in a faint yellow liquid within these glass jars. Leylin even saw a few that resembled a human embryo.

“What do you want?”

From the sales counter, a female witch wearing a tall pointed hat walked out. Her face was filled with fine wrinkles and her nose was hooked like an eagle's talons.

“I was looking at the trading board. Are you selling crystallized Darkness particles?”

Leylin asked with anticipation.

“Whoa! Look what I found, a Magus that majors in the cultivation of Darkness energy particles...”

The old female Magus laughed out as fire green light appeared in her eyes.

Chapter 151: Absorption

“You reek of blood, young man.”

The old witch cried out in exaggeration.

“You are a dark Magus, am I right?”

“Is there anything wrong? I don’t know of any rule in Nightless City that states that you can’t sell to dark Magi.” Leylin’s brows furrowed.

“Hehehe... Don’t worry, I’m a dark Magus too, though that’s a matter from over 200 years ago. Ah, just remembering those times makes me feel nostalgic...”

The old witch chuckled, which sounded like an owl hooting.

“For you young people who want to take shortcuts, the price of crystallised Darkness energy particles is not something a newly advanced Magus can afford. I doubt you have that many magic crystals, so as a favour as your senior, I’d like to offer you another option...”

Leylin furrowed his eyebrows even more. “What option?”

“A trade! You should be aware that once we get to this level, all ordinary resources mean nothing to us. Only fellow Magi on the same level as us have the supplies we require...”

“What do you need?” Leylin didn’t have a good feeling about this.

“One thousand! I need a thousand spirits brimming with energy! If you provide me with them, all of these Darkness crystals will belong to you.”

The old witch’s eyes shone with excitement.

“Are you out of your mind? If you want me to collect a thousand spirits within the light Magi domain, you might as well be telling me to commit suicide!”

Leylin replied indignantly.

Extracting spirits was a meticulous task, and in order to obtain the amount that the old witch desired, at least ten thousand people’s lives

would be consumed.

If Leylin were to harvest such a gargantuan amount, he would definitely be on the death list of white Magi!

“I’m not asking you to harvest spirits here. You can do it in the dark Magi’s domain!” The old witch’s face was nonchalant.

“That’s much too far, and will consume too much time. Furthermore, I do not wish to incur the wrath of more dark Magi forces!”

Leylin immediately shook his head and rejected the old witch’s request. “Since you posted a notice at the trade centre, I imagine you still require some magic crystals. It’s not as if there aren’t any spirits sold in the Nightless City. At most, you’d have to spend more time to amass them...”

“Alright then. However, young man, I have to remind you that the price of the Darkness crystals is not to be underestimated!”

The old witch had an internal struggle for a while, before realising that her requirements were a little too much, while walking back behind the counter.

Ping Ping Pang Pang!

After rummaging through the drawers for quite a while, the old witch finally placed a conical glass bottle on the counter.

At the bottom of the glass bottle was a layer of semi-solid crystals. It let off a mysterious lustre as if wanting to suck in the souls of those peering at it.

“300 grams of crystallised Darkness energy particles. Every gram will cost 100 magic crystals!”

“Kiddo, I’ll still reiterate my earlier suggestion. As long as you bring me 1,000 spirits, these will all be yours!”

The old witch tried her best to tempt Leylin.

“No need for that!” Leylin shook his head. However, the given price did surpass what he could pay.

Most of his magic crystals were earned from selling potions that he had brewed. After the bloodbath in the academy, he also managed to earn a huge amount, obtaining many magic crystals and precious ingredients.

However, to offset the amount he spent yesterday, those resources were mostly diminished.

Leylin did not plan to be so foolhardy as to harvest 1,000 spirits just for the sake of this small amount.

Even amongst the dark Magi, if one were to massacre large amounts of humans and harvest their spirits, he or she would be seen as the vilest of existences.

Leylin did not wish to live the life of a street rat in the south coast, receiving animosity from everyone.

“Can I use other ingredients to compensate for the remaining amount?” Leylin asked.

“Yes!” The old witch nodded. “However, I only accept ingredients pertaining to spirits. As for those kinds of items, I will only offer a 90% rate for them!”

“Spirits?”

Leylin suddenly understood that this old witch was a Magus who was most likely specialised in spirits. Right now, her experiments had reached a critical point, and she required large amounts of materials for her conjectures and theories.

Leylin did have plenty of precious ingredients on him, but many were still useful to him, and he did not plan on letting go of them anytime soon. Upon the realisation that this old witch was also researching spirits, Leylin’s eyes flashed as he came up with an idea.

“How about... Advanced information regarding spirits? Will you accept that?”

Leylin asked.

“Advanced information? Let me have a look first!” The old witch’s

expression brightened.

Leylin chuckled, withdrew a pearl the size of a thumb, and handed it over.

This pearl was a special tool used to store memories. While conducting his research as an acolyte, Leylin had recorded some information regarding spirits and stored it within the pearl.

Although Leylin was only an acolyte at that time, with the help of the A.I. Chip, his research on spirits was extremely profound. It could even surpass the knowledge of his academy's professors.

Moreover, Leylin only intended to reveal some of the information that he had discovered in his earlier stages.

As for the experiments such as optimising the Blood Vengeance Potion and the bit of information that he had obtained from the Book of Giant Serpent, he was prepared to keep it for himself.

The old witch gave it a once over, "It seems to be research materials at an acolyte level. I won't reject..."

However, with the passing of time, her expression turned solemn, and she even seemed to be entranced.

"Such exquisite experimentations! Also, the unique perspective! How about the rest of the information! Hurry up and show them to me!" The old witch snarled, looking slightly deranged.

However, upon seeing this scene, Leylin smiled confidently.

"So then, we should be able to discuss and work out the price of this information..."

A dozen minutes later, Leylin left the old witch's shop smiling.

The glass bottle containing the Darkness crystals was nested safely within his robes.

He had somewhat underestimated the zealotry that the old witch had for spirit research. The information earlier had been sold for a price of 20000 magic crystals almost immediately.

After Leylin withdrew another 100 high-grade magic crystals, the Darkness crystals were immediately sold to Leylin.

Moreover, after looking through Leylin's experiment research, the old witch seemed to have a complete change in attitude. She became extremely affectionate towards Leylin and even invited him to collaborate in an experiment.

This was quite a sensitive matter, and Leylin eventually rejected after giving it some thought. However, he did leave his secret imprint with her. Although her craziness made Leylin rather reluctant to befriend her, it was undeniable that she had quite a few useful items. Moreover, Leylin had a plan that required a partner like her to carry out.

.....

"Magus Leylin, it's you again. How was your afternoon?"

Under the flickering lamps of the street, Leylin returned to his villa.

Along the way, he coincidentally met that red haired geezer, Crew.

This old geezer was resting on his couch with a contented look on his face. Beside him were several maids with voluptuous clothing, who fed him delicacies time to time.

"Does this old geezer have a fetish for being the target of voyeurism?"

Leylin was somewhat speechless regarding Crew's nonchalance about seeking pleasure out in the open.

However, he still smiled on the surface. Resting against the fence, Leylin said, "It went okay. I managed to purchase some of the items that I yearned for..."

"Haha... After staying here for a long time, you will realise that Nightless City has everything you need!"

The old geezer chugged down the grape wine in his glass, before grabbing a maidservant beside him and smooching her out in the open.

As for the other maidservants, they chuckled, as if it was a common sight.

Although Leylin knew that after advancement, some Magi would give up on further improvement and turn lewd, engaging in wanton ways, it was still a first for Leylin to see such a sight. It had somehow widened his perspective. After exchanging several more sentences with Crew, Leylin returned to his villa.

Leylin laid on his bed upon returning to his bedroom, recollecting the day's events.

After obtaining the old witch's crystallines, Leylin saw that there was still some time to kill. At the same time, he contacted the Magus that wanted to trade the Darkness crystals for the egg of the Fire Ingesting Bird with wishful thoughts, wanting to purchase it off of him through other methods.

However, Leylin did not succeed, as the other party only wanted the egg of the Fire Ingesting Bird. Even though Leylin offered a 50% increase from the market price, it still did not move the seller.

Finally, Leylin could only reluctantly spend several hundred more magic crystals, and put out a notice at the trade centre saying that he wanted to purchase Darkness crystals, before returning to the villa.

"A.I. Chip! Show me my stats and simulate the best way to absorb the Darkness crystals!"

Leylin thought inwardly.

[Mission establishing, gathering Host's data, beginning model simulation!]

After receiving the command of its host, the A.I. Chip began to rapidly calculate, and rows of data began to flash past Leylin's eyes.

The next day, Leylin relaxed while strolling throughout the city, finding a restaurant to have a sumptuous feast before returning to his villa.

The basement of the villa had been remodeled, and a large spell formation had been carved into the surface of the floor.

Leylin placed the Darkness crystals that he had recently acquired at the

centre of the formation.

“Based on the A.I. Chip’s calculations, the crystals’ absorption rate will achieve an efficiency of 94.7% when placed within this formation.”

Leylin murmured to himself, as he came to the centre of the formation.

“Activate!” He said the opening command in the ancient Byron language.

Buzz buzz!

The entire spell formation vibrated, emitting a bright light.

In the heart of the formation, the Darkness crystals began to melt. First, they shifted from a half-solid state to a liquid state and filled in a bizarre rune. Immediately after, a bright red light flashed, and the liquid within the rune vaporised into black smoke, which circled within the basement.

The black smoke converged, and seven indistinct snakes with red eyes emerged, twisting around Leylin’s body.

Ice cold and slimy, the little snakes formed from the smoke resembled a real snake in every way, giving Leylin a bizarre sensation.

Leylin breathed in deeply.

Sssii!

Two tiny snakes were immediately sucked into his nose.

Leylin felt as if his body had expanded, and he felt tipsy as if he was drunk.

*

TL Note: Unanimous hostility from everyone.

Chapter 152: The Bloodline's Transition

The five remaining tiny snakes issued cries of terror while struggling to escape Leylin's reach.

Suddenly, Leylin opened his mouth and inhaled sharply.

All five tiny snakes were all swallowed inside his stomach.

Meanwhile, the spell formations on the ground emitted black lights, engulfing the entire basement.

Wrapped in darkness, Leylin had a feeling like he returned to his mother's womb— serene and comfortable.

Only the constant notifications from the A.I Chip could be heard.

[A large amount of essential substances are entering the Host's body, confirmed to be Dark energy particles, absorption in progress...] [Host absorption rate greatly enhanced under the effect of the Darkness rites, crystal utilisation increased!] [Absorption complete! Host's elemental essence conversion greatly increased, currently 35%.]

Di!

A crisp tone sounded in the centre of the formation. Following which, the black light converged into the shadow of a figure at the centre.

"Huff..."

Leylin gradually opened his eyes, and a flash of black light streaked past his eyes.

"This feeling..."

Having the elemental essence conversion increase to 35% so quickly was a strange sensation. Leylin could clearly feel that in the surrounding void, tiny black particles of the Darkness element were hovering around like fireflies.

Although Leylin had a Darkness elemental aptitude, being able to sense the energy particles in the air this easily was still a first for him. It was a feeling of novelty. Moreover, Leylin could sense that it required less

spiritual force than before to control the energy particles.

“Latent Fireball!”

Leylin quickly chanted the spell, and from the darkness of the basement, countless black fireballs flew out.

Flames gathered in Leylin’s hands and became five times larger in an instant.

Corrosive flames continuously formed and raised, and even the roof of the basement gradually turned red, seeming to be on the verge of melting.

“A.I. Chip. Calculate the current stats!”

Leylin muttered inwardly.

[Rank 1 Magic: Latent Fireball. Degree of attack: 40.5. Additional damage from elemental essence conversion: 10.5!]

“As expected! The might of the latent fireball has risen sharply compared to before, and the amount of spiritual energy and magic power needed has been decreased.”

Leylin’s lips quirked in a slight smile.

His elemental essence conversion had already reached 35%, which allowed him to have an increase in prowess when he cast Darkness spells. Moreover, as it was energy particles that were from his elemental affinity, the consumption of spiritual force and magic power was lowered too.

“If my elemental essence conversion reaches 100%, I wonder what kind of extent will it reach...”

There was an outward expression on Leylin’s eyes.

Right now, his elemental essence conversion was only at 35% and it had brought him this many benefits. If he was a fully converted elemental Magus, then he could rival the existences of those ancient elemental beasts!

Of course, Leylin was clear deep down that humans were, after all, not elemental creatures, so the possibility of 100% elemental essence

conversion was minimal at best.

To some Magi, as long as they reached 80% elemental essence conversion, they could attempt to advance to a rank 2 Magus.

As for those with 90% elemental essence conversion and above, they were the geniuses that were groomed by powerful guilds.

“100% is an unreasonable goal. However, with so many good conditions that I possess, I must have at least a 90% elemental essence conversion before I advance to rank 2!”

The sturdier the foundations were built, the more benefits one could reap after advancement in the future. This logic had been long since comprehended by Leylin back when he was an acolyte.

“Crystallised energy particles! I need large amounts of crystallised Darkness energy particles!”

His eyes were blazing with a fiery passion.

After waiting for a few minutes, Leylin went to the spiral staircase in the basement.

“A.I. Chip! Check my current stats, and see if there are any residual effects or injuries on my body. Calculate the amount of time needed before I can use the energy particles again!”

A flash of blue light appeared in front of Leylin.

[Leylin Farlier, Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual force: 29.8, Magic power: 29 (magic power is in synchronisation with spiritual force). Status: Healthy]

Based on the stats that A.I. Chip had calculated, after using the crystals, not only had Leylin's elemental essence conversion rapidly increased to 35%, his spiritual force had also risen.

[Residual substances have appeared in Host's body, determined to be elemental impurities! Currently in the process of expelling impurities from the body. Estimated time needed: 4 Months, 21 Days!]

The results that the A.I. Chip gave left Leylin somewhat shocked.

Magi who used external resources to advance would often cause themselves some problems. He had known this since long ago. However, he didn't think that the damages would have been this much lesser than expected.

"This can't be correct! According to the meditation technique and the Book of Giant Serpent, after using the crystals, the backlash will only be the invasion of negative energy and a temporary loss in ability to sense the energy particles in the surroundings?"

Leylin was somewhat puzzled. If using such crystals had such a good outcome, then the price should have been several times higher.

The reason for the circumstances that happened to him most likely stemmed from his own body.

"A.I. Chip, find out the reason why!"

Leylin could tell that this probably had to do with his Warlock bloodline. Ever since his body had taken in the ancient blood of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, his body had been continuously merging with the blood, also transforming his physique.

The change in his body when he advanced into a Rank 1 Warlock had been minimal. There was also still a large amount of blood that was constantly merging with his body, which unknowingly gave him many benefits.

[Mission establishing, obtaining authorisation! Beginning microscopic analysis. Scanning in progress!]

The A.I. Chip quickly cast a light blue diagram in front of Leylin.

It was a diagram of a human's DNA helix structure.

The difference between him and regular humans was that on Leylin's diagram, there were many barbs on his helixes. These barbs vaguely formed the shape of a mysterious rune.

This rune was somewhat similar to the rune that Leylin saw while

transplanting the bloodline. Furthermore, it seemed to expand continuously, as if wanted to cover the entire model of Leylin's DNA.

[Abnormality in genetic information found in Host's body. Endocrine secretion is different from normal humans. Cell activity increased, increasing effect of expelling poison!]

At the bottom of the diagram, the A.I. Chip came up with a conclusion.

From the A.I. Chip's conclusion, it could be seen that upon receiving the bloodline, Leylin's body was constantly getting stronger. His body's ability to expel poison had also exceeded most rank 1 Magi, to the point that it was able to dispel the residual impurities caused by the usage of the crystals.

[Beep! Based on analysis of the Host's DNA, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's bloodline is getting stronger, and will soon undergo a transition. Estimated time: 1 Year, 09 Months.]

The A.I. Chip prompted Leylin with another frame.

"Bloodline transition?"

Leylin suddenly thought back to the records in the Book of Giant Serpent.

If a Warlock's bloodline was extremely concentrated, and if the level of the bloodline exceeded that of the Warlock by a large margin, the power of the bloodline would remain stagnant within the Warlock's body, and accumulate until it underwent a transition!

For every transition in the bloodline, the Warlock's body would undergo a drastic change!

What Leylin had transplanted was the purified bloodline of the ancient creature, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. If one were to quantify its level, it would be at least a rank 4 Morning Star Magus.

As for Leylin, he was only a rank 1 Magus as of now! The concentration of the bloodline was too high, so it could only be dormant within his body. After Leylin's elemental essence conversion and spiritual force had

reached a certain threshold, it would then enhance him with a deeper harmonization.

“It seems that the ancient creatures’ bloodlines are mysterious yet powerful, which far exceeds my expectations!”

Leylin who was walking up suddenly halted.

“There’s still 1 year and 9 months huh?”

The second transition would bring immense benefits to Leylin. The most obvious change would be the leap in power!

“If that is the case, a lot of my plans from before should now be modified!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed, “A.I. Chip, are there any methods to hasten the arrival of the second transition?”

[Mission established! Searching within the database!]

The A.I. Chip quickly began to compute. [Lacking in data, unable to proceed! Beginning simulation!] [Possible methods – 1: Using Bloodline Crystals. 2: Obtaining a spell formation that can strengthen the bloodline...]

That was also one of the benefits of the A.I. Chip being upgraded. When important data was missing, it could establish conjectures, and provide a case scenario with the highest rate of success to the Host.

“Weren’t these two items already extinct within the south coast years ago?”

Leylin was somewhat speechless, “Is my only option to wait this out?”

After walking to the top of the spiral staircase, Leylin opened a wooden door that had a metal hoop and came to the study room of the villa.

“It seems that I have to look for some servants and the like!”

Leylin sized up the empty villa.

There were multiple rooms here, as well as a professional kitchen and stable. By the looks of it, these had been prepared for a Magus’ servants.

After most Magi advanced, they would usually find themselves a few servants or followers, and some might even accept apprentices to service them.

It was a very rare situation for Magi who had advanced to still live alone, as Leylin did.

“I guess I should make changes to the original plan!”

Leylin looked around the villa. “It’s a good opportunity to stay here for a while and take care of matters such as getting servants.”

Originally, Leylin had been planning to undergo a series of expeditions to acquire resources for his advancement after settling down in the Nightless City.

However, from the looks of it, since he already knew that his strength would be greatly boosted in 2 years’ time, he could afford to give it some time and wait it out.

For Magi, two years were not a very long period of time. As for Leylin, who had the bloodline of an ancient creature, his lifespan was higher than most Magi.

“Since I have decided to stay in Nightless City for a while, I should not be idling around. I have to create potions for sale and join other guilds to obtain protection and high-grade information. These can all be carried out at the same time!”

Thoughts ran through Leylin’s mind as he suddenly remembered his neighbour, the red-haired geezer.

This neighbour of his would definitely be helpful in this area.

Chapter 153: Seeking Entry

“Come on! I specially got someone to bring this black tea all the way from the eastern islands!”

The simplistically carved wooden teacup was giving off steam, which vaporised into the air, bringing about the fragrance of brewed tea.

With a hospitable smile on his face, the red-haired Crew brought a cup of black tea to Leylin.

Sometime after Leylin finished consuming the crystals and made the decision to be a resident of the Nightless City, he bought a gift and paid the Magus Crew a visit.

“Come, this is a honey cake made from the honey of Pomelo Bees! The taste is delicious!”

After seeing Leylin drink the red tea, old Crew directed one of his maidservants to serve a plate of extremely sweet mini cake.

The maidservants wore extremely exposing uniforms, only covering the few crucial areas. Most of her glossy skin was out in the open, which looked extremely alluring.

“If you like them, I can gift you a few!”

Crew laughed absent-mindedly.

“Please don’t tease me!” Leylin shook his head as he forced a smile. “Haven’t I already told you the purpose of this visit?”

At the mention of getting down to business, Crew’s expression became stern.

He waved his hands, and the maidservants in the surroundings bowed deeply, before quickly taking their leave. They were obviously trained and did not make any sound as they retreated.

“Do you wish to join an organisation in Nightless City?”

Crew’s expression was solemn.

“Yes, for the sake of high-grade information and some precious ingredients needed in experiments...”

What Leylin said was the truth. Obviously, he could brew his own potions and earn magic crystals, leading a very comfortable life in the Nightless City.

However, even if Nightless City was known as a trade centre, some precious items were still under strict regulations.

For example, only a few official Magi were able to access high-grade information, as well as some information that was related to breaking through bottlenecks.

These materials were heavily regulated, whether it was by magisteriums and guilds operating behind the scenes of the Nightless City, or through strict control and distribution on a periodical basis. As for wandering Magi like Leylin, there were no chances of obtaining them on the streets.

Perhaps a couple things could be found in black markets, but the amount would definitely be extremely little, and the prices extremely farfetched.

If that was the case, it was better to join a guild, even obtaining privileges at times.

“Well... the magisteriums in Nightless City are quite regulated, and...”

Crew may have omitted some information, but Leylin was well aware of what he was implying.

While Magi organisations and families may have had the tradition of recruiting wandering Magi or those who were on the run, there was a crucial requirement said Magi must not have created trouble that might bring harm to the organisation backing them.

For a Magus like Leylin, whose history was unknown, Magi organisations would do a complete investigation into his background, and then judge whether or not he was permitted to join their group.

“My full name is Leylin Farlier. I don’t have anything to hide, as you’ll

find if you look into my history.”

Leylin didn't have any plans on hiding anything about his background.

He was from the Chernobyl Islands, and was a noble's son. All of his experiences from when he was a child up till now had been recorded, and he was definitely not afraid of being investigated.

Furthermore, the only enemy that he had was the powerful Lilytell family. Unfortunately, the Lilytell family was a typical dark Magi family.

They were the arch enemy of the light Magi, who were in control of Nightless City. Countless dark Magi had lost their lives within the light Magi's domain.

Leylin had always been sticking to his role as an acolyte. There was no evidence that indicated he was insane or sick in the mind, such as having massacred regular humans at will.

As a result, his identity would not affect his entry into an organisation in Nightless City.

“There were some disputes over interests before. Due to some personal conflicts and interests, I killed the heir of a family, and am now on their wanted list...”

Leylin briefly explained his past.

After hearing Leylin's recount, Crew's face turned even gentler.

“Be at ease. I personally do not have any animosity towards dark Magi. Moreover, you have already abandoned their camp, have you not?”

As if afraid that Leylin was worried, Crew even explained himself.

“We of Nightless City will still welcome Magi like you, so be at ease!”

Crew sipped the black tea from the appealing wooden cup, before he slowly said, “So then, there are many guilds in the Nightless City; which one are you planning to join?”

“It's precisely because I don't know much that I'm here to seek your guidance!”

An embarrassed expression surfaced upon Leylin's face.

"En! Let me think, where should I begin?"

Crew racked his brains, and after thinking for a while, he said, "There are many guilds in the Nightless City. Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, Mercifura Academy, Four Seasons Garden, Hand of Femke, Human Faced Lion's Eye..."

"These are all guilds that are more powerful, monopolising the trade behind the Nightless City. On the surface, there are a few other small organisations. Those ones aren't that strong, some even having only a semi-converted elemental Magus as their backer. If at any time they were to die, the organisation would naturally be dismissed..."

"They are only guilds in name, and their shares of resources are extremely few, to the point of almost being negligible. Some are even just based on friendships and the collaboration of experiments. After some time, groups like that will naturally be formed. These types of groups have no backing at all, so don't even think of joining them!"

Crew advised Leylin with a good heart.

"As for the application, you only have to go to the communal centre, and request an application. Once you pass the test, you will be granted entry!"

"Of course, the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower might have some special welfare and restrictions..."

Leylin did not pay Crew a visit just to find out superficial information such as this. He also wanted to understand more about the inner workings of the large guilds in Nightless City. This information could only be known by older Magi who had been a resident of Nightless City for a long time.

Of course, Crew knew of this, so he leaked some important information further on in their discussion, allowing Leylin to grasp a better understanding of the various guilds.

Several hours later, Leylin bade Crew farewell with a huge grin on his face, and he returned to the villa.

In the study room, a white ball formed from magic was floating in mid-air, giving off vivid rays of light that were not too harsh on the eyes, and brightening up the entire study as if it were day.

Leylin sat on an armchair, holding a stiff goose feather quill pen, and seemingly deep in thought.

On the surface of the piece of parchment spread out over the table, there were several handwritten lines written in black ink.

At the very top of the list was Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Mercifura Academy, followed by Four Seasons Garden, and the tier below was the Hand of Femke, Human Faced Lion's Eye, Aide Society, and the like.

These were obviously the names of the true powers behind Nightless City.

"Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Mercifura Academy are both schools and have the harshest requirements for Magi who wish to enter. They even demand that Magi hand over a part of their spirit, and make an unbreakable vow! Even though their treatment is the best, I won't go there."

From the very start, Leylin crossed off Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Mercifura Academy from the piece of parchment.

"As for the Hand of Femke and the Human Faced Lion's Eye, they are both organisations formed by and for half-humans. The ratio of pure humans to half-humans is quite low, and there are rumours that they are discriminated against, so I'm not going there either!"

Once again, Leylin struck off two organisations from the list with a wave off his black goose feather quill pen.

"As for Aide Society, they are more partial towards using positive energy magic. It's an organisation made up of light Magi who are known for their healing abilities, which is definitely not my cup of tea..."

Leylin struck off the characters that represented Aide Society.

There was just one lonely option left on the parchment.

“Four Seasons Garden. I guess this is my only choice...”

Leylin had a bitter smile on his face. From the information that he had received from Crew, Leylin had a certain level of understanding regarding the organisations backing Nightless City.

However, many of them did not meet his requirements.

He was thinking of entering an organisation as an external lecturer or a visitor, but most organisations required their recruits to pledge their absolute loyalty to them.

There were some with more lax prerequisites, but unfortunately, their specialisation did not coincide with Leylin's interests, so he could not learn much from them.

No matter how he saw it, Four Seasons Garden was his only option.

Four Seasons Garden was a large scale Magi organisation. There were rumours that it was founded by a formidable Potioneering organization, and even now, Four Seasons Garden was still well known for its cultivation of vegetation, as well as Potioneering.

This coincided with what Leylin was studying.

The requirements to enter this organisation were also laxer, and those who had talent in Potioneering received excellent treatment.

Leylin had already achieved a certain level of attainment in Potioneering, and with the help of the A.I. Chip, he was almost as good as his mentor, Kroft. If he revealed just a small portion of his talent, it would definitely be enough to gain the respect of the Magi at Four Seasons Garden.

Since Four Seasons Garden was a Magi organisation renowned for Potioneering, it was sure to have many formulas, even including those ancient Potioneering formulas.

In addition, the large quantities of documents and books that they possessed would definitely be extremely helpful for the A.I. Chip's database.

As Leylin pondered, a trace of anticipation flashed within his eyes.

The next day, Leylin donned leather armour, with a cross blade in a silver scabbard, and went to the second level of the communal centre in the Nightless City.

The level of activity in the construction resembling a gargantuan palm was very high; every now and then, magicians walked in and out like scurrying ants.

This time, Leylin entered through the passage that resembled the thumb.

Most of the Magi here were rank 1, with cold auras that deterred others from getting into close proximity with them.

“These are most likely wandering Magi coming here to seek an opportunity!”

Leylin inadvertently scanned his surroundings and saw several strangely dressed Magi. Just based on the energy waves radiating from them, Leylin felt a sense of danger. With just one look at them, one could tell that they were no pushovers.

There was a large hall at the end of the passage, and straight ahead of it, there were several counters that were separated by glass windows. Within those counters, several magicians seemed to be scribbling on their papers.

Chapter 154: Four Seasons Garden

As there were only a few official Magi, empty counters were readily available.

There were a few magicians sitting on the big benches around the hall as if waiting for something or someone.

Leylin looked around and arrived in the front of an empty counter.

“Hello!” The young maiden behind the counter seemed to emit the energy waves of a level 3 acolyte. Upon seeing Leylin, she greeted him cheerfully, as her face brightened up with a smile.

“I wish to join Four Seasons Garden, hence I’m here to apply!” Leylin directly told her his purpose for arriving.

“Nightless City welcomes you as our newest member!” After listening to Leylin’s request, the young maiden’s smiling expression was more pronounced. “Please show me your ring!”

Leylin removed the silver ring from his finger and handed it over to her.

The young maiden reached out for the ring, placed it onto an instrument from behind the counter, and then respectfully handed the ring back to Leylin.

“Please fill out this form, and we will send a reply to you as soon as possible!” Subsequently, the young maiden handed a sheepskin parchment form to Leylin.

Leylin glanced at the form.

The questions on the form were simple. They asked for a name, aptitude, elemental affinity, address, and so on. On the back of the form was a note, allowing magicians to fill in other information they deemed as important.

Leylin quickly filled out the form and handed it back to the maiden.

The maiden accepted the form from Leylin and pressed on the crystal ball in front of her as if consulting something. Soon after, her face reflected her joy.

“Lord Leylin! A few examiners from Four Seasons Garden will be here this afternoon to conduct a test. You’ll only have to wait for a bit...”

“Oh? It seems like lady luck is shining on me!”

Leylin smiled as he nodded his head; he had finally found out what those magicians in the hall were waiting for.

According to Crew, after wandering magicians handed over their application forms, they would have to wait for the examiners of the various guilds, who would classify their abilities through an assessment.

The timing was not fixed. It could be as short as a few days, or as long as a few months.

This time, however, Leylin had managed to catch the right timing.

“Thank you!”

Leylin thanked the girl behind the glass window, and proceeded to a corner of the hall devoid of others, and closed his eyes as he waited.

“Hello Mister, would you like some lunch?”

A somewhat timid female voice sounded near Leylin.

Leylin opened his eyes and realised that a maid pushing a white dining cart had come up to him.

On the dining cart, there were a few silver plates on which a temperature-maintaining spell had been cast. Even though they were covered, the food’s aroma still drifted over to Leylin’s nose.

“What kinds of dishes are there? Do they require magic crystals for payment?” Leylin asked with curiosity.

It was evident that it was the first time the maid had seen an easygoing magician like Leylin; her reaction was sluggish. “There is roasted lamb thigh, calf loin... As for dessert, there’s an assorted fruit salad! All of these are complimentary...”

Leylin nodded his head. It seemed that official Magi were treated pretty well in the Nightless City.

This was common sense. It didn't matter where it was; a person who had mastered a certain degree of power or ability would always be valued.

“Give me one portion of the roasted lamb thigh, as well as a portion of the fruit salad!”

The lobby was very large, and there were even customised compartment rooms that one could choose to stay in. Other than meals, it seemed that there were other special offers.

Leylin personally witnessed a huge magician pulling a maid into one of the compartment rooms. Following which, sounds of repressed moans could be heard.

“L... Lord, if you want...” The maid servicing Leylin was also quite a beauty and combined with her slightly shy demeanour, caused one to feel lusty, and desire to ravage her.

“There is no need. I'll just eat outside!”

Leylin shook his head. Inside the hall were some round tables and long benches, similar to the layout of a coffee place from his past life, where one could stay to dine.

Leylin considered whether he had his sperms acting as a brain. With the assessment commencing this afternoon, how could that magician still think of something like this? Wasn't he afraid that his current actions would adversely affect his state of mind and ability to produce results during the assessment?

Upon hearing Leylin's response, the maid released a sigh of relief. Soon afterwards, whether it was because she felt like she had been relieved of a huge burden, or she just felt empty, Leylin had made his way into her heart.

While the maid looked at Leylin, who exuded elegance and charisma, she momentarily felt an indescribable feeling.

Leylin, on the other hand, did not notice the maid's feelings.

He was currently skilfully controlling the knife and fork in his hands,

sending the lamb thigh meat into his mouth. Every move he made had an indescribable feeling of elegance and grace to it.

In his previous life, Leylin was someone who paid extra attention to etiquette, and as the heir to an aristocrat, the previous Leylin had also undergone etiquette lessons over a long period of time.

As a result, the original Leylin was very noble-like, and when coupled with the charisma he had gained from the Kemoyin bloodline, plenty of young female magicians favoured him.

Just by walking along the streets of Nightless City, the present Leylin would spot several young ladies stealing glances at him.

There were even a few voluptuous female magicians that directly requested a date with Leylin, causing him to be dumbfounded.

After having a pretty tasty lunch, Leylin waited for a while before entering the hall, in which a large commotion was occurring amongst the magicians.

“Are they here?”

Leylin watched attentively as two Magi, who wore white robes imprinted with four unknown flower designs, walked to the center of the hall.

Next to them were two other Magi wrapped in white cloaks, revealing nothing but two pairs of green eyes.

“Today is the day of assessment for Four Seasons Garden and Hand of Femke. Those who have submitted their application form and would like to join Hand of Femke, please come with me!”

One of the Magi with green eyes spoke first in a hoarse voice as if his vocal cords had been damaged.

At the moment that he began to speak, the surrounding air started to faintly vibrate. Circles of aquamarine light started to loom around his body.

“This is a semi-converted elemental Magus?!” Leylin blinked.

This type of energy wave was similar to the one that he had seen from

the clone of the elder of the Lilytell Family.

After the cloaked figure revealed his strength as a semi-converted elemental Magus, the whole hall turned silent.

Magi only respected and answered to power and strength, and this was even truer among wandering magicians and dark Magi.

Furthermore, under normal circumstances, wandering magicians and wanted Magi had no fixed ways of breaking through their bottlenecks due to the lack of means to obtain advanced academic knowledge, potions, and the like.

As a result, wandering magicians were generally of lower levels. Even amongst the wandering official Magi, it was extremely rare to find a semi-converted elemental Magus.

While the large Magi organizations of Nightless City could easily dispatch two semi-converted elemental Magi as examiners, this kind of power was something that smaller organizations could only hope to achieve.

After the cloaked figure finished his speech, he left without delay, and headed to a nearby side tunnel, while his companion followed behind without a word.

Upon hearing the words of the green eyed magician, many magicians in the hall stood up and followed closely behind him.

Leylin could sense a mixture of energies emanating from these magicians. Some even had fur on their faces, which was an obvious trait of being half beast.

“It’s a pity, They’re just a tribe of sub-human Magi and not Warlocks!”

Leylin now anxiously wished to be able to find another Warlock organisation.

He simply had too many unanswered questions regarding this ancient branch of Magi, the Warlock. With just the Book of Giant Serpents, he wouldn’t be able to go far upon the path of his bloodline.

However, unfortunately, warlocks seemed to be extinct within the South Coast. Leylin had travelled this far and had only been able to find a little girl in the Inlan Dukedom, who had a very slight connection with warlocks.

“Hello, everyone! I am Wade, a Magus from the Four Seasons Garden! This person next to me is Tyne!”

In comparison to the lack of politeness received from the men from Hand of Femke, the two main examiners from Four Seasons Garden were friendlier.

Wade, the middle-aged magician with golden hair, had taken the initiative and introduced himself. Tyne, who was next to him, was silent and taciturn, and sometimes even absent-minded.

However, from their bodies, one could feel that they possessed the strong energy waves of a semi-converted elemental Magus, discouraging wandering Magi from causing trouble.

“Now! Those who want to be assessed for Four Seasons Garden, please come with me!”

The golden-haired Wade turned towards the side road in the opposite direction that the Magi from the Hand of Femke had taken. Tyne followed closely behind.

Leylin and the rest of the five or six magicians exchanged glances and started taking strides to catch up.

The side road was long, and the path was made of an unusual and bizarre material. The floor had no traces of cracks, and it was smooth and glossy. Leylin could even see his own reflection on the ground.

After walking for about ten minutes, Leylin and the rest arrived at a hall that was slightly smaller than the one from before.

In the middle of the hall, there were several experiment tables and equipment for Potioneer.

Upon seeing this, Leylin instantly knew what the Four Seasons Garden

was going to evaluate them on.

“As we all know, our Four Seasons Garden is famous for our specialisation in Potioneering. Therefore, we have some requirements in the area of Potioneering for new members. The test is very simple. Within the established time, successfully brew a bottle of Jeffrey’s Purifying Potion!”

Wade spoke softly, but it seemed like some sort of magic technique was being used, and his voice was clearly heard by every magician’s ears.

“Raw materials are arranged on the experiment tables; we have prepared three portions of raw materials for each of you. In other words, you’ll only have two chances to fail!”

“This kind of request....”

Leylin squinted for a bit. Jeffrey’s Purifying Potion was a type of middle-grade medicine, which, even amongst potions of a similar tier, was famous for being extremely difficult to brew.

Brewing this potion with only three portions of ingredients and within a specified time limit was something only those who were at a level comparable to Potion masters such as Kroft would be able to pass.

“Tsk....”

Sure enough, after the listing the requirements, Leylin heard distinct hisses from the magicians around him.

“In recent years, the larger powers within Nightless City have made their recruitment criteria increasingly stringent...”

At this time, a sound of complaint travelled to Leylin’s ears.

Chapter 155: Jeffrey's Purifying Potion

"Silence!"

Seeing the chaotic scene, Tyne, who had stayed quiet all this while, suddenly spoke.

In a split second, tremendous spiritual power swept through the hall like a storm.

"This is the assessment to enter my Four Seasons Garden. If you have no wish to participate, the door's right there. Please feel free to leave."

Tyne pointed to the small door at the side.

It instantly became unnaturally quiet.

"Good! Are there none who want to withdraw? In that case, let the examinations begin!" Wade glanced at the Magi under him, nodded, and a golden hourglass appeared in the middle of the room. Grain by grain, the sand started to fall.

Seeing that it was time to begin, the magicians quickly ran to their workbenches and started to handle the materials they had.

Leylin found himself a space in the corner, and since there were many workbenches within the hall, nobody was going to fight him for this place. At the moment, he was still relaxed enough to be judging the performance of the acolytes.

Since these Magi had all chosen Four Seasons Garden, it was natural that they had achieved a certain level of attainment in Potioneering. All of the magicians began to operate the equipment on the workbench in a skilled manner, motions quick and methodological.

"From the looks of it, I'll have to reveal a bit of my skills..."

Leylin grinned and got to work...

"Hmm?"

Tyne, who had been sweeping his gaze over the applicants, suddenly made a sound of surprise.

“What happened?” Wade asked his friend in a hushed tone.

“That Magus! His brewing methods are extremely... perfect!” Tyne came up with the word after a long pause.

“Look! Even though the other magicians are skilled, they tend to make mistakes. However, there isn’t the slightest bit of a lapse in his hands or in his movements. Everything is so stable as if it’s a textbook example but in real life.”

“Hmm... You’re right! If you hadn’t brought it up, I would have missed it!”

Wade watched the young man in the corner who was engrossed in handling a green plant.

The young man was currently using his right hand to heat up the beaker, the fingers on his left hand constantly emitting yellow flames. When combined together, the colour became a striking red.

“This is the Flame Combining Method unique to the dark Magi domain, and is a high level technique used in Potioneering. To think that he’s so proficient in this method...”

Wade wore an expression of admiration on his face. “It looks like we’ve found ourselves a promising seedling. Let me see what his name is...”

Wade immediately went through the stack of application forms and quickly found the young man’s name on the last piece of parchment.

“So he’s called Leylin? He comes from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in the Poolfield Kingdom, and has offended the local Lilytell family!”

“If that’s all there is, it seems like we’re going to be welcoming another comrade soon!”

Tyne’s usually emotionless face twisted in a smile.

For the magicians in the light Magi domain, they were uncaring of the fact that Leylin had offended those in the dark Magi region. After all, these two areas were at odds with each other in the first place.

What they were most afraid of was if Leylin had offended any of the

local large-scale Magi organisations. That was the most troublesome.

At times, in order to maintain the guise of unity and solidarity, they had no choice but to reject talented Magi who were on the light Magi organisations' wanted lists.

The magicians were focusing on completing their own potions, and seemed not to have heard the two Magi, who were engrossed in conversation.

All of a sudden, a Magus dressed in a black cloak made a sound. His hand trembled, and the chemical within the test tube that was already transparent instantly became cloudy.

"Bastard! You're looking to die!"

The black-cloaked Magus roared, countless black rays gathering in his hands as he dashed towards a blonde female Magus at another side.

"Stop right there!" Wade bellowed, his body shimmering with light. A rune nearby the experiment tables shone, trapping the Magus within the area.

"My lord, she..." he protested.

"I didn't see her doing anything, I only saw you trying to attack a fellow Magus participating in the assessment!" Wade snorted.

"If this happens again, you'll lose the right to participate."

The black-robed Magus seemed extremely dissatisfied as he clenched his fist. After tarrying for several minutes, he then dispelled the radiation of energy waves in anger.

"I am going to kill you!"

He glared viciously at the blonde Magus. Afterwards, he picked up another set of ingredients and began his brewing again.

"This is... An attack on the sly?"

Leylin's hands did not stop moving yet his emotions began to surge.

Just then, the A.I. Chip's scan detected a tiny trace of an extremely

covert spiritual force from the female blonde Magus that had attacked the black robed Magus.

Potioneering was a highly delicate process, and any tiny slip up could cause the whole brewing process to fail.

The black robed Magus had been interrupted at a crucial moment, and the potion he was brewing was naturally destroyed in an instant.

Although a spiritual attack was slight, a semi-converted elemental Magus would definitely be able to sense it.

However, these two examiners prevented the black-robed Magus from seeking revenge.

“Could it be that the test allows one to strike covertly, but it cannot cross a certain margin nor be too obvious?”

Leylin surmised.

With this said, the difficulty of the test had increased again. Leylin was stunned by the harshness and reality of this test from the Four Seasons Garden.

“However, on the other hand, the stricter the test is, the greater the benefits obtained later on!”

Right now, he was fuelled by a fervent desire.

Bang! Bang!

The commotion from just now seemed to have caused some sort of chain reaction, and in a short moment, another two Magi slipped up.

There was a cold glint in Leylin’s eyes.

Using the A.I. Chip, he could distinctly feel that there were two minute waves of spiritual force aimed towards him.

Their target was the Potion in his hand that was close to completion!

“A two pronged attack?”

Leylin laughed. To talk about the minute control of the spiritual force, Leylin who had the A.I. Chip to help him would not be afraid of anyone!

“A.I. Chip, begin secondary task and destroy the spiritual forces together with me!”

Leylin commanded inwardly. Very soon, a layer of spiritual force that had a trace of Darkness aura met the two similar spiritual force head on.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

At the point of contact between the spiritual forces. Leylin’s spiritual force had rapidly overlapped, turning into the form of a small snake. Its tiny strength continued to stack, and after several rounds, its might momentarily multiplied by several times!

Boom!

The two opposing spiritual forces were destroyed the moment they came in contact with Leylin’s spiritual force.

Not only that, Leylin’s spiritual force still followed the pathway of the two spiritual forces and began a fierce counterattack.

“Urgh!”

“Argh!”

Two sudden cries were sounded in the hall suddenly.

The potions of the black robed Magus and female blonde Magus immediately turned to ashes. Furthermore, two streams of blood flowed down from their noses.

“Interesting! Earlier, I felt that the acting of the black robed Magus was somewhat poor, but now, have they been colluding?”

Leylin smirked. His elemental essence conversion had been significantly boosted. Also, with the help of the A.I. Chip, these two were unaware, and had actually taken a small hit from him.

They most likely had to recuperate for a period of time before fully recovering from the spiritual force attack from earlier.

“My Lord! I forfeit!” The black-cloaked man glanced at Leylin in fright, and promptly lowered his head, afraid to look him in the eye any longer.

“Me too!” The blonde Magus yelled.

“Permitted!” Tyne answered.

The two Magi quickly gave Tyne a bow, and darted out of the hall.

Unexpectedly, neither of them had any complaints or glared at anyone.

“At least these two know their place!”

Leylin thought nothing of their behaviour.

Magicians respected power. In the earlier exchange, he could tell that the two Magi’s elemental essence conversions were not higher than 10%, so they most likely had only just advanced.

They posed no threat to the current Leylin.

It seemed they were well aware of this fact, and quickly withdrew from the assessment, even being afraid that Leylin would pursue the matter.

“Did you see that? What an interesting performance!”

Wade grinned as he spoke to Tyne.

“Yes, his elemental essence conversion is of a rather high level. His ability to manipulate spiritual force is also amazing!”

Tyne nodded, his expression stern.

“And I was still worried that he was a spy from some organisation! I’m afraid nobody would be willing to use someone like him as a spy!”

“So this is your conclusion?” Wade blinked. This was the first time Tyne had such a good impression of somebody.

“No! This is just my hypothesis!” Tyne’s usually expressionless face suddenly had a mischievous smile.

“You!”

As Tyne’s colleague, Wade naturally knew that his counterpart’s frosty indifference was just an act. In fact, Tyne had a mischievous mindset.

As for Wade, who looked more normal between the two, he often had to take the blame for Tyne’s behaviour.

“The Jeffrey’s Purifying Potion! I’ve completed it!”

At this moment, Leylin indicated his completion by waving his hands.

This voice was extremely abrupt in the originally silent hall. In a moment, many gazes from magicians glanced at Leylin.

Firmly held in Leylin’s hand was a test-tube with a milky white substance.

Wade came in front of Leylin, and carefully took the potion from him. He then began to scribble on a form.

“Very well! You can leave now. Ten days later, come to the recruitment area at the communal centre, and await for your results!”

Wade gave Leylin an extremely warm smile.

“Many thanks!”

Leylin smiled and bowed before leaving from a side door.

He understood that the test had been successfully passed. As long as there were no problems when they reexamined his current status, the Four Seasons Garden would never deny his entry.

Outside of the communal area were the wide streets of Zone 2 in Nightless City. The bustling activity on the streets continued, as people continued to pass by.

Anyone who had registered and provided their paperwork were allowed to stay in Zone 2, so Leylin was even able to see some regular humans here.

Chapter 156: Pass

Regular humans who lived in the domain of light Magi had better lives than those in the dark Magi domain.

Furthermore, the revered magicians even allowed them to obtain resident rights in Zone 2 as long as they continuously worked hard for it.

However, from what Leylin saw, it was only a different form of management.

Regular humans were treated at the same level as wild grasses in the dark Magi domain, and they did not receive management very often. The only thing was that they would be harvested in times of need.

As for the light Magi, they treated these humans as pieces of property; hence, they could afford to invest huge amounts of time and effort to manage them in order to reap greater benefits.

Even in the most open minded domain of the light Magi, magicians always had a position far above regular humans. Furthermore, this gap in status surpassed the gap between regular humans and nobles.

Leylin saw many situations in which regular humans, even those that seemed to be nobility, respectfully moved aside and gave a deep bow when they saw an acolyte.

Leylin paid no mind to these situations, however. The test today was rather taxing, and he was prepared to enjoy a hearty feast, then proceed to Crew's house to inquire about some matters.

The old geezer was very talkative, and Leylin wasn't planning on asking him anything confidential, so he was naturally willing to entertain Leylin.

Crash!

"Ah!"

Suddenly, a little girl in a white dress, who was chasing something like a rubber ball, bumped into Leylin's leg.

Rather than Leylin, who stayed in the same spot, the little girl fell

backwards onto the ground.

She opened her eyes wide, and when she saw Leylin in his leather armour, she promptly began to cry in fear.

The congested street instantly became quiet, and regular people quickly backed away. Even a few acolytes yelped, “official Magus,” and phrases along those lines, and bowed while drawing back.

“My lord! Please forgive my daughter for unwittingly offending you!”

At the moment, a slightly plump noble prostrated himself in front of Leylin. He had cold sweat dripping down his quivering body.

In the Nightless City, the authority of the official Magi were extremely high. Even if they were to casually kill several humans, they would, at most, only be fined a set amount of magic crystals.

If Leylin’s mood wasn’t good, he could just kill these two people here, and they wouldn’t be able to do anything but accept their fate.

The plump noble kowtowed as he pulled the little girl to kneel as well. “Quickly, seek forgiveness from the Lord!”

This atmosphere that seemed like a befalling calamity had also influenced the little girl. She held back her sobs and blankly stared on.

“It’s alright!”

Leylin picked up the rubber ball on the roadside and handed it to the little girl. He even ruffled her hair with his right hand.

“It’s no big deal! No need to worry!”

“Thank you, Lord!” “Thank you, Lord!”

With a feeling of a renewed life, the fatty’s words were choked back. Even the little girl that he had brought along seemed to heave a sigh of relief.

“Do not be this impudent in the future anymore!”

Leylin nonchalantly lectured the fatty before leaving the scene in large strides, as the revered gazes of the passerby stared on.

“Do not be this disobedient in future anymore. Fortunately, this time, it was a kind magician. If it wasn’t...”

The fatty wiped off the sweat on his forehead as he scolded the girl.

As for the white-robed girl, she looked at the direction Leylin headed towards with admiration.

.....

Nine days later, in a spacious room.

An old Magus with a head of white hair and gilded spectacles was looking at the pieces of information he was holding in his hand.

Within a transparent crystal ball, lines of text appeared.

“Leylin Farlier! From the Chernobyl Islands. Entered Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in the year 20987 of the Saint Yuan Calendar!” Next to these words, there was also a picture of a boy who was around thirteen or fourteen years old, and very similar in appearance to the current Leylin.

On another crystal ball nearby, there was a detailed record of Leylin’s experiences in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. As long as the information was made available to the public, it was all written there. There was even an article regarding the matter of how he had offended the Lilytell family.

“Hm! For the sake of a couple remnants? Seems reasonable!”

The old Magus nodded.

“Look, should we ask him to hand over the research materials he obtained from the ruins?” A Magus with a third eye on his forehead said.

“No, all official Magi have their own secrets. We need to learn to be lenient and tolerant, or else all of the magicians in the organisation would end up only acting for their personal benefits, leading to the segregation of groups!

There were several Magi who had journeyed throughout the south coast and managed to break through. If Four Seasons Garden demanded Leylin hand over his research, it would definitely draw the ire of other Magi,

which would definitely provide no benefits for them.

“However, based on Wade’s information, that Magus called Leylin had a slightly different aura than regular Magi. He might have broken through with some ancient methods...”

The Three-Eyed Magus was somewhat unresigned.

“Those alternative paths that a Magus might take may not have the advantages that you think they might...”

The old Magus looked at Three-Eyes beside him, and could not help but remind him.

“Time is the best judge. In the long history of competition, several tens of thousands of years have already passed. Branded Swordsmen, Elemental Bards, and Divine Warriors have all become extinct with the passage of time. Only we, who are the most traditional of magicians, have been preserved. Does this not explain everything?”

The old Magus’ eyes shone with wisdom.

“For some subclasses, although they might have favorable conditions when they advance, most of their routes on the path of advancement become blocked. It’s not even close to us, who can see continuous progress with constant cultivation in meditation techniques.

“Moreover, one must believe in time and the power of influencing through good will! Learn to embrace them!”

The old Magus smiled with confidence.

“We should not treat him as an enemy, but as a friend. After some time, he will naturally sense our good will. Moreover, the bountiful reserves of our Four Seasons Garden will definitely contain something that he needs!”

The old Magus merely adopted a soft approach instead of a hard one. Even with such an approach, it did not mean that he had given up on obtaining the information.

“Other than the Lilytell Family, is the Magus called Leylin really not a criminal wanted by anyone else?”

The old Magus asked again.

“I’ve checked multiple times, Mentor!” Wade bowed, “After Leylin went to the south coast, he usually stayed within the compounds of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy to study. He had little contact with other powers, and nine days ago, he...”

Next, Wade gave a brief summary of how Leylin let go of the father and daughter a few days ago.

“Look, he’s still on the side of the light!”

The old Magus smiled as he spoke to the three-eyed Magus.

“Hmph! It’s just for show!” The three-eyed Magus made a sound of contempt.

“We always look at their actions, and not their heart!” the old Magus said a proverb.

“Even if it’s a show, it also shows his willingness to enter a white Magus’ faction! That’s a lot better than those unrepentant dark Magi!”

“In that case, do you mean...?”

Three-Eyes bowed slightly.

“Tell the Potioneering team that we have found them someone with potential...”

.....

Naturally, Leylin would not know of such events. However, he more or less grasped the general situation.

With the strength of the Four Seasons Garden, it was very likely that all of his experiments from a young age until now would be displayed in front of a table that would be vetting him!

Furthermore, they would most likely infer that he had killed Bosain for the inheritance and was now on the run.

However, he was not worried at all.

The great Magus Serholm had utterly destroyed the Dylan Gardens.

Since the dead party could not verify anything, they would at most reckon that he had obtained some subclass Magus information, and could have only advanced to an official Magus with some luck, so his future progress would be extremely limited.

Moreover, he was now an official Magus. Other guilds would definitely have official Magi who advanced under similar circumstances, and if they were to try to get to the truth, they would not be able to gain the trust of these Magi who had advanced in special scenarios. At the very end, they were still forces of the light Magi, so no matter how they thought inwardly, they had to show a good reputation on the outside.

As long as Leylin was able to hide the meditation technique of the great Magus Serholm and the A.I. Chip's purification of bloodlines, he was not afraid of letting them find out about other things.

Just as he expected, the moment he reached the reception area, he could see that Wade, who he had previously met, was already there waiting for him.

"Nice to meet you, Magus Leylin!" Wade smiled as he bowed towards Leylin.

"Congratulations on passing the test. From here on, you are a member of the Four Seasons Garden!" Wade gave a passionate smile.

"I am also honoured to enter such a great organisation as the Four Seasons Garden!"

Leylin had a look of excitement on his face.

"There are still a few contracts and procedures we need to go through regarding your entry. Please follow me!"

Wade walked in front and led the way, bring Leylin out of Nightless City.

Seeing the look of doubt on Leylin's face, Wade explained, "Even though Four Seasons Garden has a few laboratories and a reception area in Zone 5, our headquarters is in the outskirts of Nightless City."

"I see!" Leylin nodded, following Wade to a region near the gates to the

city.

In front of Leylin was a large square, and in the middle, there were several wooden crosses, to which creatures of all shapes and sizes were tied.

“This is one of the Four Seasons Garden’s contacts, from which you can choose a specialized mount!”

Wade pointed at a giant magical creature that had just landed from the air.

“Although you can rent them, I suggest that you buy one for your personal use as transportation!”

Wade walked to a small wooden hut beside the plaza and greeted the person inside through the window.

“Madre, give me two Dragon Crown Nighthawks, as I wish to go to the headquarters!”

“I got it, I got it. You told me already!” The man behind the window impatiently answered, and tossed out two green metal sheets.

Chapter 157: Reynold

“Let’s go!” Wade called towards the distracted Leylin.

“What, do you like these guys?”

Wade pointed at a creature in front of Leylin that looked like an elephant, but had a layer of white feathers on its body that appealed to Leylin.

“I’m very interested in these kinds of strange creatures!”

Leylin gave a slight smile while he made a decision. He would come here often and look around, and if he was lucky enough, there might even be a few creatures with ancient bloodlines!

“Come on!”

Wade brought Leylin to where two gigantic Dragon Crown Nighthawks were.

These huge birds that resembled eagles had steely black feathers covering their bodies and their necks were dyed red. On their head, there was a beautiful protruding bone in the shape of a crown.

Wade unlocked the bronze collar on the Dragon Crown Nighthawks’ necks and tossed one of the green metal sheets Leylin.

“This is the key to controlling them. Come, let us leave!”

Leylin climbed on one of the Nighthawks’ backs in curiosity. On its back was the leather saddle of a mount. It seemed to be manufactured for the comfort of the riders.

Leylin sat on the saddle and willed a trace of his spiritual force to enter the green metal sheet.

The moment his spiritual energy touched the metal sheet, Leylin could feel his mind instantly connecting with the Nighthawk.

The Nighthawk’s mind was very simple, and it was only able to receive commands such as fly, drop, increase speed, turn, and so on. Its intelligence was similar to that of a child of around seven or eight years of

age.

[Dragon Crown Nighthawk. Strength: 5.2, Agility: 7.6, Vitality: 4.9, Special abilities: None.]

The stats given by the A.I. Chip were simple. From the looks of it, this type of Dragon Crown Nighthawk was only suitable as a means of transportation.

“Let’s go!”

The large Nighthawk spread its wings, and in doing so, swept up a dust tornado.

Following two cries of the Nighthawks, Leylin and Wade made themselves comfortable on their backs as they flew into the sky.

Whoosh

The strong air pressure made Leylin feel as if he were in the middle of a hurricane.

“Hehe! Leylin, how does it feel?”

Wade, who was on the Nighthawk beside Leylin, spoke up.

Leylin’s eyes closed in a contented manner as he enjoyed the scenery zooming past him on both sides, as well as the blue sky and white clouds that seemed to be in close proximity.

For official Magi, whose bodies were much more resilient than the regular human beings, this sort of pressure was akin to a slight breeze.

“It’s not bad!”

“Haha... Back then, I had regretted that I had not memorised a flying type spell. However, ever since I got my precious, I did not have those thoughts anymore. Perhaps one day, you can have a look at it! I swear that you will be enchanted by it...”

Leylin chatted with Wade along the way as he observed the flying path of the Dragon Crown Nighthawk.

Ever since he had left the Nightless City, the Dragon Crown Nighthawk

had been flying eastward.

With the passing of time, the air in the atmosphere turned chillier.

Finally, a snow covered mountain range appeared in front of Leylin. The Dragon Crown Nighthawk let out an excited growl, and began to soar upwards.

On a patch of ground covered with white snow, the Dragon Crown Nighthawks that carried Wade and Leylin landed.

“Welcome to the Four Seasons Garden’s headquarters!”

Wade led Leylin into a tall passageway.

Two acolytes that seemed to have been waiting for them began to receive the Dragon Crown Nighthawk, and brought them to their stables, before beginning to scrub and feed them.

The passageway was extremely winding, and the walls were covered with pure white snow. On the inside, however, a warm wind was circulating.

From the various forks on the passageway, Leylin could see several Magi with acolytes walking past them. They carried notebooks and seemed to be in a hurry.

After half an hour and several checkpoints, they finally reached their destination.

“We’re here, this is my mentor’s room, Lord Reynold’s office!”

Wade pushed open a big black metal door while explaining to Leylin.

It was extremely spacious behind the door, and there were many green vines creeping in the surroundings.

The ancient tree vines were twisted and intertwined, taking the shape of the table and chairs. Also, where some knots were, several beautiful white flowers were blooming, emitting a sweet fragrance.

Behind the desk made of black vines, an old, white-haired Magus wearing gilded spectacles smiled at Leylin.

“Welcome!”

“An honour to meet you, my Lord!” The energy waves radiating off the old man’s body completely surpassed that of a Rank 1 Magus. Leylin had only come across this sort of undulation from the chairman and a couple of other Magi at the bloodbath in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

It was obvious that this old man was at least a rank 2 Magus.

“Don’t hold back. The Four Seasons Garden was created by the great Potions Master, Amesandenisa, for the sake of exchanging research and potion formulas. Our objective is to create equality and freedom!”

The white-haired man laughed with a kind demeanor.

“Being able to enter the Four Seasons Garden is an honour, my lord!”

Leylin bowed once more.

“Now then, are you prepared to sign the contract?” Reynold asked.

“I hope you don’t mind, but could I see the contents of the contract?” Leylin asked.

“Right! Don’t mind me, I’ve already gotten so old that I have forgotten these things...” The old man chuckled and pointed at a piece of parchment on the table.

Leylin picked it up and looked through the conditions.

Just as he had expected, the specifications were quite lax.

It was stated that Leylin had to swear not to harm the Four Season Garden’s interests and that he had to complete a specific number of missions per year. In exchange, the Four Seasons Garden would provide him with information and resources. In all other areas, the conditions were lax and did not restrain him in any way. There wasn’t even any mention of what would happen to Magi who left the organisation.

“It is just as Crew mentioned. Due to some history, the Four Seasons Garden’s pact is quite loose!”

Of course, Leylin was aware that this was just for him to gain access to some of the Four Season Garden’s resources. He was unable to gain further access to the more important items.

That was only possible from the start if the contract was much more strict, to the point that he had to leave a part of his spirit here.

However, Leylin wanted to enter a large organisation by taking on the role of a guest professor or special guest. It was for his convenience to obtain high-grade information and resources in the future. He had planned to travel across the world in the future and search for various Magi remnants and did not want to just be tied down in one place.

Leylin took extra care to examine the margins of the parchment paper, which was extremely clean, with no additional conditions or runes inscribed onto them.

Some ancient characters were extremely difficult to notice and even similar to runes. Leylin had heard that many magicians loved to use such devious traps in order to trick others.

Although the Four Seasons Garden might not stoop down to such a level, Leylin still felt that he had to be more careful for his own sake.

“A.I. Chip! Scan! Check if there are any pitfalls or unknown constraints in the contract!”

Leylin commanded silently.

[Mission establishing, beginning detailed scan!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Currently, after several upgrades, the A.I. Chip was still able to hide all traces of its existence before a rank 2 Magus.

[Beep! Scan complete! No strange or concealed restraints on the contract!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“These conditions are very good, I have no reasons to refuse them!”

The A.I. Chip’s indication could only be heard by Leylin. From Wade’s point of view, Leylin had only given it a cursory glance, before readily agreeing.

“Very well!” Reynold chanted an incantation.

Buzz buzz!

There was an undulation in the air, and immediately, a mysterious eye appeared in mid-air.

This eye was completely black, save for the scarlet light within the pupil.

“Trial’s Eye!” Leylin said inwardly.

This eye was extremely similar to the clone he had summoned, but it was at least ten times bigger than what he had seen before!

It was obvious that when summoned by a rank 2 Magus, the Trial’s Eye’s might would be multiplied.

If it was said that the Trial’s Eye that Leylin had summoned when he was an acolyte had less than a billionth of the strength of its true body, this vertical eye that Reynold had summoned would most likely have the strength of a millionth of the Trial’s Eye’s real body.

The Trial’s Eye floated in mid-air quietly, and Leylin seemed to even see a trace of intelligence within its pupils.

“This is different from a phantom that has no consciousness when summoned by an acolyte. The might of the Trial’s Eye, when summoned by an official Magus, is even stronger. Moreover, it is intelligent and can think on its own, so it is able to judge the contract fairly between both parties!

Reynold explained to Leylin.

That was to say, if this Trial’s Eye had appeared in the past, Leylin’s past ploy in deceiving the vengeful spirit Roman with a word game would have been exposed, and he would have suffered the punishment of the Trial’s Eye.

“I declare that the ceremony starts now!”

Reynold announced in a low voice, and the moment he spoke, the Trial’s Eye trembled. Leylin could tell that the atmosphere in the air had changed and became denser.

“Witnessed by the mighty and impartial Trial’s Eye! Leylin, do you agree to sign this agreement?” Reynold asked, his voice clear and powerful in

the ancient Byron language.

“I agree!” Leylin answered his speech also in the ancient Byron language.

The moment the words left his mouth, he could feel his spirit tremble, seeming to repeat the words that he had just said.

The phantom of the Trial’s Eye shook, seeming to be the witness to this contract.

“So then, I, Reynold, hereby declare the contract as established!” Reynold called out.

Boom!

The contract on the parchment paper in Reynold’s hands suddenly combusted, turning into ashes as they entered the phantom.

Xiu Xiu!

The Trial’s Eye exploded and turned into two black rays, entering Leylin and Reynold’s bodies at a speed that the naked eye could not follow.

“Congratulations. From today onwards, you are now an extrinsic Magus! Not only can you obtain a portion of precious resources every month, you are also allowed access to most of our labs and the library!”

Reynold said to Leylin.

Chapter 158: Decarte

“Good, now let’s speak about your allocations...”

Reynold told Leylin.

“According to Wade, you have an amazing talent and ability in Potioneering. We cannot allow such a talent to be neglected. After some consideration, we are prepared to arrange you into the Potioneering team. Do you have any objections?”

“I couldn’t wish for anything better!” Leylin smiled.

Since there were Potioneering teams, there should be other alchemy teams, battle teams and more. Leylin only wanted to enter the organisation to get a salary and gather some resources. He definitely would not be willing to endanger his life fighting battles for them.

As for being able to join the Potioneering team, the requirements should be related to Potioneering, which was something he specialised in.

It seemed that intentionally having exposed his innate skill and strength from before had helped him in his promotion.

“Alright! Wade, bring Leylin to the Decarte of the Potioneering team, and then come back. In regards to the Moonflower Flame incident, I think there are better ways to deal with it..... ”

“Yes, teacher!” Wade gave a bow, and took Leylin away with him.

“What do you think? My tutor is a good person, right?”

Wade asked Leylin with a sense of pride and boasting. Being in front of Leylin, who was now a fellow comrade, he was visibly much more relaxed.

“He is a wise and amiable senior!” This time, Leylin naturally would not sing a different tune.

“Ha ha..... everyone says that. Come, let me bring you to the Potioneering team. Decarte, over there, is overly conservative, but he still attentively cultivates truly talented young magicians....”

Wade divulged a quite a bit of information without much thought.

At the end of the turn, a magician in black robes emerged.

This magician exuded a twisted and chilling murderous aura with faint howls from vengeful spirits, causing Leylin to feel sensitive.

The most eye-catching thing about this magician was his vertical third eye in the middle of his forehead.

The vertical eye was always open, and its pupil was pitch-black. It seemed to lack feeling or sensation, causing one to not help but shiver.

“Wade, this new Magus doesn’t seem to be very polite.....”

The three-eyed Magus said coldly. An icy spiritual force immediately pounced onto Leylin.

“Hmmm?!”

Leylin was caught by surprise, and immediately gathered his spiritual force to defend.

Pop! Fine bubbles of air in the atmosphere began to pop.

The moment their spiritual forces met, Leylin could feel that his opponent’s spiritual force contained a strong aura of fresh blood. This kind of odor was so dense that Leylin nearly suffocated as he could not dispel it.

And besides, his opponent’s level of elemental essence conversion far surpassed that of semi-converted elemental Magi. Leylin’s spiritual force collapsed under his opponent’s attack.

As if a sledgehammer had smashed into Leylin’s chest, he stumbled two steps back, and his face turned white.

The three-eyed magician looked bewilderedly at Leylin, “Your spiritual force is not bad, but it’s a pity that it was still insufficient...”

Subsequently, he did not take another look at Leylin, and proceeded past them.

It seemed that the Magus was trying to show off and demonstrate his prowess.

“Are you okay?” Wade looked a little worried for Leylin.

“No problem, my spiritual force is just a little shaken up. A few days of rest is all I need to get better!” Leylin looked in the direction of three-eyed Magus as he left, “Who is he?”

“He is Lord Caesar, a Magus personally nurtured by the Four Seasons Garden, and with valiant fighting strength. He is in charge of the hunting team, and is the role as our deputy commander!”

Wade looked at Leylin with a bitter smile on his lips.

“Lord Caesar believes that foreign magicians will only damage the Four Seasons Garden’s unity, and believes that recruiting new magicians should be banned...”

As if afraid that Leylin would worry, he added on, “Of course, my teacher, Lord Reynold, does not agree with his point of view. Furthermore, my teacher was one of the pioneers of this organisation. At the present, the Four Seasons Garden’s higher authorities are still in favour of recruiting new magicians...”

“Head of the hunting team.....”

Leylin glared in the direction of Lord Caesar, and a ray of light flashed from his eyes.

“A.I. Chip, estimate the opponent’s strength!”

[Based on the spiritual force emitted by the opponent, target’s strength estimated: Rank 1 Magus with peak strength, elemental essence conversion above 80%...]

“With this kind of strength, it bears a resemblance to the elder from the Lilytell Family. By the looks of it, if I was paired to battle against him, I’d have little chance of winning...”

Tons of complicated ideas were swirling around in Leylin’s mind.

“Okay, let me bring you to the Potioneering team...”

Wade quickly changed the topic, and Leylin followed behind Wade without comment.

Along the way, Wade tried his best to speak about other topics, hoping Leylin would forget about the unhappiness from earlier on. Even though they both knew it was impossible, Leylin still acted as if he was listening attentively.

“After becoming a part of our team, you can live here permanently in a house for free. However, life here is very monotonous; we just conduct experiments after experiments. Hence, many magicians like to own housing in the Nightless City, so that they can have a vacation over there from time to time...”

Wade responsibly told Leylin what to expect. After crossing several forks in the road, they came to a stone bridge that spanned mid-air across an overhanging cliff, which led to a botanic garden.

The floor here was made of metal, and the surroundings were a tidy and clean shade of white, causing the misconception of returning to his laboratory from his past life.

On both sides of the road, there was also transparent glass.

Behind the glass were petri dishes, in which various sorts of exotic plants had been planted.

Walking Earth Grass, Giant Food Flowers, Face Vines... With just a casual sweep of his eyes, Leylin found countless precious plants. Some were even important ingredients for cultivating spiritual force, but of course, they were only effective for acolytes.

Any newly recruited rank 1 Magus would be astonished at all these things, but Leylin had seen the great Magus Serholm's Dylan Gardens that he had personally cultivated, and all these plants were nothing compared to what he had seen before.

However, a shocked expression still flashed across his face.

“We've arrived. This is the Potioneering headquarters!”

Wade brought Leylin through the garden, and arrived in front of two huge stone statues that resembled monsters.

“Password!” The statue started to speak.

“Tell Decarte that I’ve brought someone here for him! And also, don’t make jokes to amuse yourself! If it happens again, I’ll tell the teachers to change all guarding systems in this facility! You should know that I have that power!”

Wade bellowed at the statue.

As if he knew that Wade wasn’t joking, the enormous stone statue monster chuckled before getting out of the way.

“These two statues seem to have been manufactured defectively. The creator mistakenly stuffed a couple of mischievous spirits into the statues. Just ignore them!”

Wade brought Leylin through, then told Leylin.

“Mischievous spirits?” Leylin stared blankly, while immediately recalling a written account from an illustrated handbook.

“Those that resemble goblins, and tease people for their own pleasure... Those spirits? This is really... it deserves our sympathy!”

“To be honest, I also have some sympathy for myself!”

While Leylin was speaking, a tunnel behind the stone statue was opened, revealing what seemed like a structure of a ginormous auditorium.

There was a huge gold chandelier suspended from the ceiling of the auditorium. There were plenty of giant candles on it, illuminating the auditorium.

In the auditorium, there were numerous unusually long white birch tables with all sorts of delicacies spread on top. There were only a few magicians, and they were sitting far away from each other. Only a few of them who seemed to have a better relationship huddled together to chat.

The voice from earlier on belonged to a middle-aged magician on the platform.

“Here, let me introduce to you, this is Lord Decarte, the head of the Potioneering team. He is a Magus at the peak of Rank 1, and on the verge

of breaking through to Rank 2!”

Wade smiled as he saluted Decarte, then said to Leylin.

“Lord Decarte!”

Leylin quickly bowed.

“Hehe, I know you! I’ve seen the clip of you brewing the medicine; your technique was really admirable! From now on, we’ll be colleagues! Everyone, please give a toast to our newest comrade!”

Decarte snapped his fingers, and two cups filled with mead flew in front of him and Leylin.

“Cheers!” All of the magicians present raised their cups.

“Thanks!” Leylin took the cup. The mead’s alcohol content was not high, and it tasted like sweet liquor. Its taste was pleasant.

“Well, since I’ve sent Leylin here, I will be taking my leave!”

Wade drank his wine in one shot, “My dear teacher is still waiting!”

“Since you still have something to attend to, I shall not delay you any further. Leylin, come! Sit here!”

While Decarte was speaking, the acolytes beside him immediately arranged a new long table. Countless kinds of delicacies and fruits were continuously brought to the table, quickly piling up onto the table.

Leylin slightly bowed and arrived at his own seat.

Only at this time did he have the chance to size up Decarte, the formidable Potioneering team leader.

Decarte wore white robes, onto which green plant designs had been embroidered.

His face’s shape was common, and on his forehead was a dark green headband, making him look extremely indolent.

Around Leylin, there were also a couple of servants, who were dressed glamorously. From the aura they gave off, they were level 3 acolytes from noble families.

He took a look around. Solely in this auditorium, there were at least thirty official Magi, and countless acolytes.

This was only a Potioneering team. In terms of overall strength, it had already surpassed the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

The banquet carried on for about an hour and a half. After the majority of the magicians had finished eating, the acolytes brought beverages of different colours. The atmosphere in the auditorium slowly cozied up, resembling the tea parties Leylin had attended in his past life.

“Alright. This meal and welcoming ceremony are over. Let us discuss the allocation of work now...”

Decarte spoke on the platform, his voice resonating to the ears of every magician present.

Upon hearing this, the magicians put down their cups.

“Elmo! How’s the progress of the Giant Dragon Strength Potion?”

A voluptuous female magician stood up, “I am about 70% done with deducing the formula, and am currently stuck at some crucial points. I am applying for the third centrifuge and supplies from the fifth garden...”

“Good. After the banquet ends, submit an application form!” Decarte nodded in agreement.

Chapter 159: Exchange

“How about you, Martin? How is the brewing of the monthly 300 doses of Frost Potions?”

Martin was a short old man, and when his name was called, he seemed uneasy as he stood up.

“Si... Sir, you know it. I am having a shortage of manpower... Also, recently, the apparatuses have...”

“I don’t care what your reasons are, Martin. Isn’t this the third time already?” Decarte’s face darkened.

“Please... Please forgive me, Sir!” Martin’s face reddened.

“It’s timely that you’re lacking in manpower. Leylin will first be assigned to your team, and I will provide you with another 3 synthesizing machines. If you are still unable to complete your task by next month, your allowance for this year will be greatly reduced!”

“Yes, Sir!” Martin could not help but to wipe the sweat off of his face.

Leylin, who heard his name being called, got up.

Next, Decarte called on several other magicians, inquired about their progress, and made the necessary arrangements.

After the banquet, Leylin took the initiative to slow his footsteps and walk alongside Martin.

“Having you come to my team... I’m sorry...” Martin apologised.

“It’s not a problem!”

In any team, all newbies had to suffer at the beginning, and Leylin was well aware of this fact.

“Alright, let’s move on. I’ll bring you to the lab and your room. There’s also some stuff that you’ll need to know.”

Even though Martin looked quite inept, he was enthusiastically guiding Leylin through the registration processes.

“Take it. They’re the keys to your room, as well as your identity token!”

The old geezer Martin brought Leylin to a house that was constructed of black stones. Also, he handed over an old bronze key and an identity token to Leylin.

The ancient key was modelled in an old fashioned way. There were even some characters inscribed on it.

As for the identity token, it was made of a translucent metal, with Leylin’s name and other information carved onto it.

“Just with this token, you are able to go to the organisation’s resource point and obtain a portion of precious ingredients, as well as some advanced information.”

Martin explained to Leylin with patience.

“This token is extremely important, and if you lose, it there will be quite a hassle. You must definitely protect it well...”

Seeing that Leylin nodded his head to express his understanding, Martin brought Leylin to view the experiment labs and rooms.

“The experiment lab is a common shared area, and its number is dkh-328! The apparatus in it is rather decent, and enough for an official Magus. Furthermore, if you have any other special requests, you can apply for it through the organisation. As long as you have enough contribution points, the organisation will do their best to fulfill your requests....”

Leylin had heard Martin mention contribution points before. They were a method that the Four Seasons Garden used to gauge the merits of individual Magi. After finishing the appointed amount of work required, an official Magus could obtain contribution points.

These points could not only raise the status of the team but could also be used to exchange for essential resources and knowledge.

From what Leylin could tell, this was a form of currency in the Four Seasons Garden.

“Speaking of contribution points, since you have only just entered, I’m

sure you don't have enough. How about it? Do you want to accept one or two acolytes? These kinds of assignments give the most contribution points."

Martin suggested helpfully.

"Actually, I don't have any plans on teaching anyone anytime soon!"

Leylin smiled and refused Martin's request.

"However, how does the academy function to protect a member's family?"

Leylin briefly stated the issue of him offending the Lilytell Family to Martin.

Under the insurance of safety and personal benefits, Leylin would not mind leaving a lifeline for the previous Leylin's Farlier family

After all, he was still the eldest son and heir to this family in name.

Also, if the opportunity presented itself, Leylin wished to make up for the fact that he had borrowed the body of this family's child.

"Oh, don't worry about it!"

Martin listened to what he said and shook his head.

"Our Four Seasons Garden is a lot more powerful than the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. As long as we get in contact with them, the Farlier family in the Chernobyl Islands will definitely be taken good care of!

Furthermore, based on the contract that you've signed with us, before it's certain that you're dead, the Lilytell family will definitely not be able to hurt your family of regular humans."

"There's such a rule?"

Leylin was a little curious. No matter that world he was in, it was acknowledged that harming one's family was a very good way causing one to seek revenge, much less in the Magus world, where the regard of law was lacking.

"Is this... the fear of revenge?" Leylin guessed.

“Exactly. You’re fast!”

Martin looked pleased with Leylin. “An official Magus that has nothing to tie him down is the scariest. Especially the fact that the Lilytell Family’s members are not all magicians. There are definitely acolytes and normal human beings amongst them...”

Leylin understood that this was a mutual fear of each other.

Before his death was confirmed, as long as the Lilytell Family dared to strike at the Farlier Family, it would definitely incur the wrath and revenge of Leylin.

Also, with the strength of an official Magus, slaughtering those humans and acolytes would be as easy as eating rice and drinking water.

Even if the Lilytell Family was rather established, they would definitely not be able to handle such a loss.

Hence, the Farlier Family would completely be safe.

“What’s more, you’ve joined us!” Martin’s expression was one of pride, and perhaps conceit.

“The Four Seasons Garden’s might is not something that the likes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy can even begin to compare to. After hearing that you joined our side, they might have even thought of withdrawing their order for your capture!”

“I don’t really care about that!”

Leylin thought about Bosain, who he had killed. This acolyte of nobility seemed to be the sole grandson of the elder of the Lilytell Family.

In addition, they had also dispatched a rank 1 Magus to kill him, who had ended up dying by Leylin’s hand.

This enmity could not be so easily resolved.

“I’ve heard that the competition to be the next head of the Lilytell Family has reached the most crucial point. That elder is also known for being headstrong, and will not tolerate my existence. Otherwise, his image and reputation will be ruined...”

On the contrary, as Leylin thought of this, a look of anticipation appeared in his eyes.

Right now his strength was rapidly increasing. Moreover, once he underwent his second transition of his bloodline, his strength would definitely be boosted by a significant amount. At that time, it would not be a matter of whether the enemy would let Leylin leave, but whether Leylin would let them go.

.....

Four months later.

Leylin wore a loose white robe, with patterns of green plants embroidered on the sleeves and collar.

This was the uniform that official Magi in the Four Seasons Garden wore.

He was presently passing through the side roads in the mountain of the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters.

After walking through a tunnel full of little plant people, he arrived at an ancient square.

The square seemed to be constructed in the heart of the mountain and was very large. The ceiling was made of solid rock, and an innumerable amount of everlasting light spells had been added to the wall, brightening up the entire room.

This was the place in the Four Seasons Garden where he could exchange contribution points for resources.

Here, whether it was an acolyte or Magus, one could use contribution points and gain the materials and information that they wanted.

In addition, as an official Magi, Leylin was able to gain his monthly allocation for finishing his monthly tasks.

Many magicians who wished to join the Four Seasons Garden were attracted by this temptation, which was second only to having a large backer supporting them.

Leylin specifically walked towards to counter that handled the redemption of contribution points for official Magi.

The staff member in here was actually an official Magus as well. This official Magus was a female, with ocean blue hair that softly rested on her shoulders. On the sides of her lips, there were traces of gills.

“Hello, may I ask what you require?” The female Magus asked using the common language of the south coast, her voice extremely gentle and pleasing to the ears.

“This feeling...” Leylin was instead alarmed, “It’s extremely similar to the time when I was brewing the Azure Potion, where the voices of mermaids singing were heard...”

“It seems that this woman has a trace of the mermaids’ bloodline...”

Leylin’s expression on the surface was indifferent, as he looked at the woman and handed over his token. “I am here to retrieve some ingredients; is there a catalogue for them?”

“This is the catalogue of the items that you are currently able to exchange for!” The female Magus swept her eyes over Leylin’s token and seemed surprised as she looked at Leylin. After that, she pretended that it was not a big deal, and handed over a catalogue to him.

Leylin looked at the list of items on the catalogue in detail.

This list was extremely long. Not only were there many resources that were precious even in the Nightless City, there were also many pieces high-grade information, and the latest results of experiments.

Furthermore, Leylin even saw some spiritual force potions that were meant for an official Magus’ consumption. However, the contribution points required were so high that Leylin could only long for them.

“Sky Flower Welk Fruit, Dwarf Frost Runes, Elemental Crystals!”

Leylin’s fingers stopped when they traced the words of ‘elemental crystals’ on the catalogue. His previous backlash from consuming them had now disappeared, so he could once again obtain more crystallised

Darkness energy particles to raise his elemental essence conversion.

Leylin fervently looked through the entry of the elemental crystals, and finally, at the end of the list of the names of energy particles, he found the name that he was searching for.

“Crystallised Darkness energy particles: able to effectively raise the elemental essence conversion of a Magus. Also has major residual effects. Use at your own risk! Available: 5850g. 1g = 1 contribution point. Limit: Regular team members can only buy a maximum of 50g per month!”

“This price?”

Leylin frowned.

Based on this method of calculation, he could purchase 50g of elemental crystals at the most, which would deplete his contribution points by about half.

He had used up 300 grams of crystals, which raised his elemental essence conversion to 35%. With another 50g, at the very most, he would be able to raise it to 40%, which just wouldn't be enough!

Chapter 160: Four Seasons Secret Plane

“Why is the price of these crystals so expensive?”

Leylin could not help but blurt out, “Also, there’s a limit to the quantity that I can purchase?”

From the looks of it, with such a method for calculating the price, elemental crystals were one of the most expensive items in the catalogue. Their prices were only second to that of a spiritual force potion.

Leylin had stayed in the Four Seasons Garden for four months and had been allocated 10 contribution points per month. This meant that even if Leylin stayed idle, he would be able to get ten contribution points per month from the Four Seasons Garden. Furthermore, he had joined Martin’s squad, and every time he completed a mission, he would receive a fixed amount of contribution points.

However, even after adding all of these up, it was actually still not enough to buy many items.

“Although the backlash of the elemental crystals is great, it is undeniable that it can boost the strength of a Magus. Naturally, it is an item that is highly sought after.”

The female Magus seemed to have heard these questions countless of times, so she did not hesitate with her reply.

“Give me 50 grams of elemental crystals, and on top of that, add these two pieces of high-grade information!”

Leylin paused and thought, before pointing to the catalogue and saying to the female Magus.

He knew that he had made a mistake; the Four Seasons Garden’s monthly allocation of resources could not be stacked up, but was instead fixed for every month.

That was to say, Leylin could obtain up to 50 grams of elemental crystals per month, but he was not able to wait and receive several months’ worth of allocations at the same time.

Moreover, even if he knew beforehand that the monthly allocations could not be accumulated, he, who had just joined, did not have that many contribution points allocated to him in the first place.

“A total of 80 contribution points!”

The female Magus took Leylin’s badge and waved it above a black machine. Bright red lights flashed.

Following that, she then retrieved the items that Leylin had requested from behind the counter.

“Thank you!”

Leylin stuff the items in his robes and left the plaza with a heavy heart.

“Leylin! Leylin!”

A short magus, with a height of merely one meter and a skull like a gnome, hurriedly ran to Leylin.

“You’re just in time. Follow me, Martin was just looking for you!”

From what Leylin knew about this short Magus, he had also been temporarily assigned to Martin’s group. The two of them had accomplished a significant amount of missions together and had a decent relationship with each other.

“Is anything wrong?”

Leylin was a little curious.

As the leader, Martin would usually lead and plan the task. In other areas, however, Martin had little presence.

“It seems like this is related to this month’s task!” Leylin said. The short Magus revealed a delightful smile.

“Ever since Leylin joined Team 3, our rate of success has been steadily increasing, allowing Martin to gain favour with Lord Decarte! In addition, since our group has been performing exceedingly well, Decarte has started assigning us other more challenging tasks with higher quality rewards.”

“This time, it probably has to do with this matter.....”

“Other tasks?” Leylin was a little curious.

Ever since he had joined Team 3 under Martin, the tasks that had been assigned to him had always been the brewing of frost potions and the like.

In this complicated and taxing task, the presence of the A.I. Chip had begun to show its advantages. Leylin’s completion rate was exceptionally stunning.

Thus, although Leylin consciously hid some of his progress, deliberately committing mistakes, his contribution to the small team was remarkable, gaining him the respect of many of the members.

Leylin followed behind the short Magus, passing through a couple of long and narrow forks, and eventually arriving at Team 3’s meeting point.

Pong! The iron door opened up at once.

“Leylin!”

Martin was slumped over at a long table and using a red pen to write, but after noticing Leylin, he briefly put his existing work on hold, his face revealing a pleasant smile.

To him, Leylin was basically his savior.

With Leylin’s entry into the team, he had been able to complete his own task, assuredly securing his own resources this year, and also helping his team accomplish some marvelous tasks.

It was only now that he believed that Leylin was his lucky star.

There were other members of Team 3 in the spacious room. Upon seeing Leylin, their faces displayed amicable smiles.

“Great! Now that everyone is present, I shall talk about this month’s task!”

Martin happily took out a scroll wrapped with a golden ribbon out from his robe, steadily opening it in front of Leylin and the others.

“Our task this month is to maintain a specific area within the secret plane. Reward: 50 contribution points each!”

Clamour

Even though they were aware that the task this time around would be very good, the Magi situated below were in chaos.

“It’s actually to enter the secret plane! This is really...” The short Magus had a very excited look on his face.

At the corner, Leylin revealed his surprise too. “Such a huge reward, and also, a secret plane?”

A secret plane was a domain that ancient Magi had constructed in order to house resources or conduct experiments. It was isolated by spells, and by the looks of it, the Four Seasons Garden possessed such a place as well.

“I almost forgot, Leylin, you have just joined not long ago, and probably are still unaware of the secret plane!”

Martin closed and rebound the scroll, smiling as he walked towards Leylin.

“Leylin, from what you know, what is the one thing that a Magus values the most?”

“Talent and resources!” Leylin answered without hesitation. This was the common consensus from all Magi in the south coast.

“Not bad. A Magus’s aptitude is set from birth, and is impossible to change, and the only way to make up for it thereafter is in the resources aspect!”

“With sufficient resources, even a Magus with an average aptitude can possibly reach the footsteps of a gifted Magus... ...”

Martin showed a face of awe.

“Thus, once ancient Magi advanced, they would search for an area that had a high concentration of elemental energy particles, and construct a secret plane to nurture and grow resources... For this reason, it is the root of many ancient Magi remnants that you see now!”

“As for the current generation of Magi, they are far from the overpowering might of ancient Magi, who could cast isolation spells on

their own, and set up spells that could stretch and compress space... some needed resources like space rocks for the construction, which cannot be found by the current age Magi!”

“Thus, at the current south coast, the inner circles of magisteriums have joined forces to open up and cultivate a part of a secret plane as a mainstream activity...”

“Perhaps, there are a few lucky ones. Those who are so lucky that they can cause jealousy, obtaining ancient remnants and inheritances and controlling a secret plane. That is really a story of instant success...”

Martin’s face was tinged with envy.

Of course, Leylin knew what a secret plane represented, as the knowledge that he had previously gathered at the Dylan Gardens had been deeply etched into his memory.

Simply owning a part of a secret plane would mean the provision of limitless resources!

For a Magi who especially required resources, this was an irresistible offer.

However, the capability of a Magus was limited, and one unable to build a new secret plane on his or her own. Only when working together could Magi build a secret plane.

Leylin had predicted the existence of similar places in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, but because his level had been lower back then, and he had advanced into a Magus after leaving the Academy, he was unable to prove this point.

“Leylin, you have only been here for a few months, and yet, you are entering into the secret plane. The upper management seem to have a lot of confidence in you, huh!”

Martin patted Leylin on his back in a friendly manner.

“Not at all! Not at all!” Leylin gave a modest expression, appearing rather shy.

“Ha Ha... ...Let’s go!”

Martin laughed and took the lead, and Leylin himself followed closely behind him.

The entrance to the Four Seasons Garden’s secret plane was near the headquarters so that it would be easy to deploy forces to guard the entrance.

Leylin and the rest followed behind Martin, and after following five to six roads, they reached the entrance to the secret plane.

On the way there, Leylin used the A.I. Chip, and felt the five or six energy waves scanning over his group.

Furthermore, the Magi guiding the entrance were of semi-converted elemental strength and beyond.

These types of stringent and vigilant checks caught Leylin by surprise.

Standing in front of them, the stern looking Magi examined the scroll that Martin was holding once more. After which, Martin turned back and shouted to Leylin and the rest, “Get ready, the entrance is about to open!”

The entrance to the secret plane was a door made out of a big slab of stone, and the borders of the big door were embossed with differing intricate designs.

On a platform beside the entrance, there was a Magus sitting cross-legged, whose countenance was concealed. Extremely mysterious and strong energy waves radiated from his body.

“This is the guardian of the academy! Hurry up and greet him!” Martin led the group of magicians and bowed first.

“This is... At least a rank 2 Magus’ energy waves. It seems like the importance of this secret plane has far surpassed my guesses!” Leylin’s eyes flashed as he bowed like the others.

“Since the inspection is now over, let us enter!”

The guardian waved his arm and chanted an incantation.

Weng Weng! The stone door moved, and a white light radiated from behind the door, giving off a feeling of energy waves emanating from the void.

Having had previous experience in exploring secret planes, Leylin was familiar with the undulations that indicated the opening of the plane.

At the same time, a bright light was produced from the scroll in Martin's hands, and enveloped the entire group.

When the white lights met and fused, it produced a blinding glare.

As the glare eventually vanished, Martin, as well as the other magicians, were revealed to have disappeared.

"Ugh!"

Leylin rubbed his eyes, which were stinging in pain. "This is really uncomfortable!"

He found himself standing on top of another platform, on which many acolytes were walking around.

Unlike the previous scenery, the surroundings were a sea of green.

The sky was a pure blue, and the surrounding air was extremely fresh.

"Are we within the secret plane? It seems quite large!"

Leylin stroked his chin. "A.I. Chip, analyse the surroundings!"

[Beep! Scanning in process! Compared to the air in the outer world, the density of energy particles within the secret plane is higher by 34.7%!]

The A.I. Chip displayed a chart in front of Leylin, quickly giving him the data that he required.

Chapter 161: Man-made Rain

“This is shocking, isn’t it?”

Martin joyfully said as he walked closer. “This is the Four Seasons Garden’s four seasons secret plane, which has an overall land area of more than one hundred thousand mu, and is abundant with various types of resources... ..”

“One hundred thousand mu?” Leylin was extremely surprised; this was the land area of a couple countries from before he was reincarnated added up together.

“Yeah, there are not only valuable objects and magical living creatures, but normal humans are in here too...”

Martin pointed towards the distance at what looked like an area of small towns and villages. “We employ normal humans to help us with farming and even working at some plantations for the Magi. This proves that being well organised, well planned with training, and more highly invested human resources, we can produce even more resources...”

“The entire Four Season’s secret plane is the foundation of our Four Season’s Garden, and is an unending stream of treasure!”

“Building the secret plane, cultivating resources, and harvesting; these are the main resources used to furnish the white Magi’s power!” An intoxicating look flashed through Martin’s eyes.

“These one hundred thousand mu of land have such a high energy concentration, and adding the special care and maintenance...” Leylin sighed, as he thought to himself in his heart.

Leylin also felt that the old him was always living in the shadows of the Magus world, whereas right now, he could finally see the differing ideologies of the dark Magi.

The light Magi cultivated the various plantations and animals within the secret plane, thus reaping great resources.

On the other hand, the dark Magi seemed to prefer using violence to

obtain these resources.

“Leylin, do you know why the previous check that we went through was so stringent?”

Martin asked unexpectedly.

“Why? Could it be because of the fear of the dark Magi?” Leylin shared his speculations.

“Yes, it’s those wretched beings!” Martin was fuming with rage when he spoke of the dark Magi.

“Those bloodthirsty dark Magi always seek to profit using other people’s toils, and cannot be bothered to run their own secret plane. Instead, from time to time, they plot against our light Magi’s secret plane.

The short magician who was at the side revealed the reason.

“Every year, there would be a successful occasion of dark Magi raiding our secret plane! Although they took only the presently available resources, and the secret plane was able to resume production, it was still a tremendous loss...

On the contrary, Leylin was surprisingly knowledgeable about the reasoning behind it.

Although the dark Magi grew up in a bloody and vicious environment, it was undeniable that having grown up in such conditions, these dark Magi were more powerful than the average light Magus.

In the eyes of the dark Magi, whose methods involved preying on the weak, the resources of the white Magi were a veritable gold mine.

Moreover, these kinds of smaller scale battles could even be used as a way for the dark Magi to train their forces.

If the white Magi had not been well organised and united, and the black Magi themselves also had flaws and trust issues, perhaps the balance of power of Magi in the entire south coast may have been altered.

“Alright, I will allocate the next task!”

Martin stood at the corner again and waited for all the Magi to make their way over, before giving his speech.

“Our task is to clean up an area in the north division, getting rid of the insect pests and diseases within. We also have to pay attention to the disease that is affecting the grassland in the east division. Black spots have appeared on the surface of Horse Milk Grass, and we need to use the First Jacklin Potion to take care of it.”

“Fire Eyes and Hakob, go to the first east division! Oak and Leylin, you two go to the second east division.”

Next, Martin started to announce people’s duties.

“Let’s go!” The midget Magus named Oak told Leylin.

After everyone’s duties had been distributed, the Magi in the third team left the platform in groups of twos and threes.

“There is still a very large distance that we need to traverse to reach the north division, but we have already arranged for a mount, and will be able to reach our destination quickly... ..”

It was obvious that Oak had been here a few times in the past. He brought Leylin to the edge of a building. Facing the window, he asked for 2 of the green metal plates.

“The controlling device for the Dragon Crown Nighthawks?”

By now, Leylin understood that the Four Seasons Garden totally controlled the secret plane.

With the two piercing cries of the Nighthawks, the two Dragon Crown Nighthawks flapped their wings and flew towards the east.

After flying for a distance, if one were to look at the riders from they had set off, one would only be able to see some tiny black specks.

The whistling of the wind continued to sound in Leylin’s ears.

Leylin sat on the wide back of the Nighthawk, sweeping his eyes over the land under him.

In the secret plane, where the amount of energy particles was much denser, all types of vegetation grew very well.

For as far as the eye could see, there were lush green fields, within which there were several organised patches of blue flowers that gave off a sweet scent.

This was the Honey Milk Flower. Not only was it often used by acolytes as an ingredient used in Potioneering, the nectar within the flower was also a food that all beings in the Magus world enjoyed.

With the use of the A.I. Chip, Leylin could see that within the sea of blue, there were several people looking like ants as they worked diligently.

Beside the sea of flowers, there were several obviously man-made constructions, which seemed to have the sole purpose of watching over the flowers.

“Regular humans are in charge of plants that acolytes use as ingredients. As for ingredients that the official Magi usually use, which are more precious, they are more heavily defended, and are bred in special environments that simulate the environment of the outside world.”

After flying for nearly half an hour, they descended into the outskirts of a small town.

“Greetings, my Lords!”

At this moment, a bunch of housewives and children came out from the town, and led by a town mayor and an acolyte, they respectfully greeted Leylin and Oak.

“We have definitely told you everything regarding the general events that have been taking place! This is my identity token! Bring me to the surveillance tower!”

Oak handed over a badge to the acolyte.

The acolyte seemed to be very old, and there were streaks of white hair behind his ears. He took the badge and traced over the surface of it with his thumb while chanting an incantation.

With the incantation, a layer of white light emerged from the badge and formed an image in midair. The screen listed Leylin's and Oak's profiles.

"Lord Leylin! Lord Oak! Please follow me!"

After seeing the image and information, this acolyte seemed to heave a sigh of relief, as he led Leylin and Oak to a tall stone tower within the small town.

"This is the organisation's surveillance tower. I have been taking on the role as a guard and have been maintaining the tower. Right now it is operating perfectly fine." The acolyte opened the doors of the surveillance tower as he made his report.

The surveillance tower was extremely simple, and the walls were the colour of ashen grey rocks.

The first floor made up the living quarters of the acolyte, and goods such as the stones and crystals used in the maintenance of the tower were haphazardly stocked on the second floor.

After going up the long flight of spiral steps, Leylin reached the highest floor of the surveillance tower.

Outside the door of the highest floor, there was actually a living magic creature. It was a painting of a lizard mounted on the wall. "Give me the password!"

"The great mother earth has bestowed upon us her powers!" The acolyte recited in a singsong voice.

"Password confirmed!" Following the reply of the lizard, the door opened with a creak.

"Even though he is only a level 3 acolyte, he's not bad!"

Leylin looked at the lizard within the painting that was still crawling and commented, before entering the room.

The room at the highest level was very small. There were windows installed on the four walls, and through them, one could observe the scenery surrounding the town.

“This is an apparatus that monitors the weather, and these spell formations complement the fine tuning of humidity and temperature. The controls are extremely simple, but since this is still your first time, Leylin, you can watch me first...”

Oak walked towards a black apparatus.

“Our initial purpose for coming here is to treat the disease that is affecting the Horse Milk Grass...”

Oak pressed on the apparatus, and immediately put on a red plastic mask on his face.

Ka-Cha! A depression appeared in the apparatus. It was the size of a thumb, which could fit a test-tube in.

“First Jacklin Potion!”

Oak placed several test tubes in the depression. Immediately, the green liquids water level slowly fell.

“Rain!” Oak spat out the word in the ancient Byron language. At the same time, water element particles were constantly converging in his palm.

The energy particles were magnified through the apparatus and were eventually expelled out of the tower.

“To have used the magic of magicians to replace science and create man-made rain, this is incredible!” An intoxicated expression appeared on Leylin’s face as he thought.

Any and all paths of progression would eventually converge at the same final destination.

The magicians who harnessed the mysterious powers of magic in this world had nearly achieved the same feats attained in Leylin’s previous world.

Ka-Cha!

Above the small town, patches of ominous clouds gathered and seemingly grew denser by the second.

Pitter Patter!

Droplets of green rain fell from the sky.

Dark clouds amassed, and the rain descended upon the grassy plains.

With the onset of rain, the black spots on the surface of the Horse Milk Grass became noticeably lighter. It seemed that with the treatment contained within the rainfall, the grass could have a complete recovery

“The management of the secret plane is also a skill! The method of creating rain is the simplest of all of the techniques that we use. We also need to be aware of the compatibility of the flora and the fauna. For instance, if Night Lotus Flowers and Midnight Bees are put together, not only can this raise the efficiency of the production of the Midnight Lotus Flowers, it can also increase the vitality of the Midnight Bees, and increase the chance of there being a Bee King. Furthermore, the honey made from the pollen of the Midnight Lotus Flower is also a cosmetic item highly sought after by female Magi.”

Oak gave Leylin a brief introduction.

Leylin's experience in managing a secret plane was completely non-existent.

Hence, he attentively recorded Oak's words in his memory and asked questions from time to time in order to lessen his doubts

“However, it's a pity! If I am able to let the A.I. Chip manage the activities within the secret plane using science and technology, I am confident that I can increase the productivity of the secret plane by at least 20%!”

After understanding the general situation within the secret plane, Leylin felt that this was a pity.

Chapter 162: A Meeting

No matter how great the Four Seasons Garden's secret plane was, it did not belong to him. Therefore, Leylin did not want to reveal his trump cards for the sake of it.

Also, as a newly advanced Magus, it was just a pipe dream for him to own a secret plane all to himself.

Apart from these couple stray thoughts, Leylin did not have any better methods that he wanted to employ.

.....

Seven days later, the crisp caw of a Nighthawk sounded. Leylin sat on the back of a Dragon Crown Nighthawk while flying back to the Nightless City.

The missions to maintain the secret plane were indeed some of the most popular missions.

Leylin and Oak only spent seven days to cleanse the eastern part of the secret plane. Not only was the disease cured, they managed to drive away droves of ferocious beasts.

After which, Leylin and the others who, had nothing else left to do, were sent out of the secret plane. On each of their tokens, there was a huge number of contribution points added.

"I can try my earlier plan now. Also, I need to find several more servants. If I were to do everything myself, it would be a waste of my time..." Leylin thought.

After a span of four months, the backlash from consuming the Darkness crystals disappeared. However, the Four Seasons Garden's supply was far from enough, so Leylin could only shift his attention to that old witch in the Nightless City.

He remembered that the old witch's shop had a number of good items.

The sea of people in the Nightless City was the same as before. Leylin

flew directly to the passage that hosted the revered magicians and showed his ring to the guards, before entering the city under the respectful bows of the guards.

Suddenly, Leylin's robes shook. A green light forcefully radiated through his robes.

"En?"

Leylin furrowed his brow, and withdrew a pocket sized diary.

A green secret imprint flashed with light, and from it, the voice of an old lady sounded. "Hey Leylin, are you here yet?"

From the tone of the voice, Leylin could detect a sense of urgency.

Ever since he had handed over a copy of his research on spirits from when he was an acolyte to the old witch, she had proved to have an extreme interest in it. Furthermore, she even given her secret imprint to Leylin.

During these past few months, she seemed to have gotten some progress in her experiment, but she was caught in a bottleneck. Hence, she had been continuously sending messages to Leylin.

It was a pity, however, that Leylin had been inside the Four Seasons Garden brewing potions to exchange for contribution points, so he hadn't paid her any heed.

However, this old witch was extremely patient, and had been sending Leylin a message every few days.

"What is it? Didn't I say that I would try my best to come over as quickly as possible?"

Leylin said to the secret imprint.

At the same time, his footsteps halted, and changed directions towards a deserted alley. He also applied a layer of isolation magic on his body.

"This time, I have amassed many items. Do you remember the crystallised Darkness energy particles? I have a total of 500 grams here, and I swear that you won't regret it..."

Knowing Leylin's temperament, the old witch hurriedly tossed out her bargaining chip.

"500 grams?" Leylin's brows relaxed, and the original feeling of tension disappeared.

With that many Darkness crystals, combined with the ones he had been saving, it would definitely bring his elemental essence conversion up by another notch.

However, the Darkness crystals were not almighty. According to Leylin's estimation and the A.I. Chip's calculations, if these crystals were to bring his elemental essence conversion up to 70%, then it would already be a godsend.

What's more, the backlash would be extremely terrifying. If his vitality was not superior to other normal magicians, he wouldn't dare to be this crazy.

"Yeah, this time I spared no expense, and even owe some old freaks a couple of favours now... Do you remember our previous transaction? Give me the latter half of the information, and all of these crystals will be yours. Also, there is some prospect of the things that you mentioned to me before happening. As for the details, wait until you come to my shop..."

The old witch's voice gradually faded, but Leylin could tell that she had a certain amount of confidence.

"Okay, wait for me. I'll be right there!" Leylin closed the diary, and hastened his footsteps.

Within Nightless City, Elm Street #231!

"Hehehe... You actually got here so quickly. It seems like you're also anxious to get the items I have!"

Seeing Leylin entering the shop, the witch immediately closed the main doors. It seemed that she was prepared to stop operating her business for the rest of the day.

"You and I are both Magi, but if not for the fact that we both had

something the other party wanted, we would not be gathered like this. Don't bother trying to play these mind games!"

Leylin carefully scrutinised the old witch's appearance.

She looked more aged as compared to before. Furthermore, her hair was shrivelling and falling out. It seemed like she had gotten older by thirty to forty years.

"What has happened to you?"

Leylin casually asked.

"It's nothing much, just a backlash from an experiment!" The old witch obviously did not intend to elaborate.

"All 500 grams of Darkness crystals are here!" The old witch shook her head and placed a black bottle on the counter. Her body was extremely thin, as if she could collapse and die any given moment.

Inside the bottle, there was a layer of half solid and half liquid translucent crystals—the same as what Leylin had seen before.

"Before this, how about the thing I had entrusted you to look for previously? Are there really any prospects now?"

He had made a request to the old witch before, and that matter was no ordinary task.

"Of course, people who are similar are the most sensitive to one another. From your aura, I completely believe in your identity as a dark Magus. Furthermore, the guild behind me is very willing to have you join us..."

The old witch panted and sat on a chair made of vines while talking.

What Leylin had asked of the old witch from before was naturally to seek out an organisation operated by dark Magi.

Even within the Nightless City, which was controlled by the light Magi, there would definitely still be the existence of shadows. These were the grounds where the dark Magi would operate!

After all, Leylin was still a dark Magus through and through. To him,

slowly gathering resources like other Magi, and spending time and effort to seek a chance to break through, was far too inefficient for him!

Furthermore, Leylin did not own a secret plane, and with his current wealth, he would definitely not be able to establish one. As a result, he could only work for an organisation in exchange for resources. Such a cumbersome process was unbearable to him.

As for the crudest way of obtaining resources, it was always done through bloodthirsty means. How could a slow and steady accumulation beat the instant gaining of resources through plundering? Although this method had a certain degree of risk, after doing some calculations, Leylin felt that it was within his risk threshold.

In fact, this was the most common thought of the dark Magi.

One could nurture a secret plane on any given day, but once there was an immediate increased need for resources, looting or plundering would have to be done.

As for the previous encounter, Leylin realised that this old witch was not just a dark Magus. Her shop was most likely a contact point for the disposal of stolen goods, and a meeting place for the dark Magi.

Hence, he had a notion about what was to come.

After all, with his current capabilities, he would not be able to plunder a secret plane, so he would need the help of other magicians.

“En! When will you bring me to see your head?” Leylin asked.

“What about my reward?” The old witch refused.

“First, look at this!” Leylin tossed a scroll to her after thinking.

The old witch caught the scroll, and her eyes squinted. “En! It seems to be an introduction to a type of spiritual force potion. The ingredients required are really rare; you actually need a spirit...”

“Guk Kuk...” Suddenly, as if something got stuck in the old witch’s throat, she let off a gag, her face filled with disbelief.

“This is... A spiritual force formula of the ancient Magi! The primary

steps have actually been filled in...”

She looked at Leylin in alarm. “Give me the rest of this information, and the deal will be sealed! I can even give you other types of compensation, and my treasures will be for your taking!”

Towards the old witch’s suggestion, Leylin scoffed. “Are you kidding? A copy of a spiritual force potion of the ancient Magi is only worth this much?”

“Then what do you want?”

The old witch’s face darkened, and a dark spiritual force energy wave emanated from her body.

Whoosh! As if a strong wind had passed through, the items in the shop began to shake.

“You wish to attack? Don’t forget that we’re in the Nightless City right now!”

Leylin reminded her as he smiled gently. After which, his eyes flashed, and an immense wave of spiritual force with an inconceivable darkness enveloped the shop.

Bang!

The two forces clashed, and several explosions occurred in the air. The glass bottles in the surroundings cracked open, and several organs and fresh blood seeped from them.

“You actually have such a huge improvement in your spiritual force?” The old witch staggered back two steps, apparently shocked.

“Not only that, look at this too!” Leylin withdrew the identification badge of the Four Seasons Garden, and flashed it at the witch.

“The identity token of the Four Seasons Garden! To think that you had already joined them!”

The old witch was evidently more afraid now.

“Hey hey! Is this Elm Street #231, Marie’s Emporium? I detected strong

spiritual force energy waves from your shop earlier; do you need any assistance?”

A milky white light from a secret imprint floated on the old witch’s counter.

“No... It’s nothing. Just a leakage of a failed experiment from earlier...” The old witch looked Leylin in the eye, and said to the secret imprint.

The other party was silent for a moment. “Then I will make this record. Moreover, you have flouted clause 762 of the Nightless City’s security law; please come to the communal centre to pay your fines before the 13th...”

Evidently, the other party had his suspicions, but as the perpetrator of this event, the old witch did not voice any problems, so the other party did not bother to pursue the matter any further.

“I know!” The old witch answered the other party in a superficial manner, before shutting off the secret imprint.

In the Magus world, strength alone was not everything. One needed to have some kind of backing as well.

Chapter 163: Collaboration

Not only did Leylin display his immense might in front of the old witch, he even revealed that he had the backing of the Four Seasons Garden. Hence, the old witch now had no choice but to take him seriously.

As for the possibility of the other party catching hold of Leylin's weak point?

Right now Leylin had not joined any dark Magi organisations, so why would he be afraid of that?

Also, after successfully joining the organisation that the old witch was in, everyone would be in the same boat. Leylin also had other plans, and would never allow this old witch to reveal them to others.

Crash!

A heap of high-grade magic crystals that radiated huge energy waves was emptied on the table, along with a dozen black magic crystal cards.

These magic crystal cards were made of the essence of 1000 magic crystals, which was the origin for many formations source of energy. Hence, they were extremely sought after.

"All of my magic crystals are here. Every item in this shop, as long as you want them, can be yours. If only you could give me that potion's formula."

An earnest and pleading expression appeared on the old witch's face. It seemed that she needed this potion's formula very badly.

This turn of events left Leylin somewhat shocked.

From what he thought, this old witch would definitely be enthralled by it, but not to such a crazy degree.

However, this situation was naturally more favourable towards him now.

Leylin appeared indifferent as he swept up the magic crystal cards and crystallised Darkness energy particles and stored them in his robes.

"How precious is the formula of a potion that can increase the spiritual force of even official Magi? It isn't even easy for me to get this kind of

item!”

Leylin said nonchalantly, and despair was drawn on the old witch’s face.

“Although the formula cannot be given, we can still cooperate!” Right when the old witch was about to burst in rage, Leylin gently spoke again, causing the old witch relax the energy particles that she had gathered.

“Cooperate? How are we going to do that?”

“You’re an expert in the field of spirits, and the raw ingredients for this spiritual potion are all spirits! You’ll provide the ingredients and do all of the other preparatory work, and I’ll be in charge of brewing the potion. As for the potions that are successful, I’ll get 60% of them, and you’ll get the remaining 40%!”

Leylin suggested.

It was obvious that this proposal seemed to hit the old witch’s soft spot.

In terms of potential, she couldn’t take down the present Leylin, and the power backing Leylin was also one that caused her some amount of fear. In addition, this potion was extremely important to her.

“The ratio is too little. I’ll be obtaining the spirits and doing all the prep work, which is much more dangerous. If I ever get caught by the light Magi, I’ll definitely be chased to the ends of the world!”

The old witch emphasised the fact that she’d be in the most danger.

“That’s the best you’ll get! It won’t get any higher than this!” Leylin wore a deadpan expression. “After all, the formula is in my hands. As long as you agree, we can immediately sign a contract and summon the Trial’s Eye to bear witness to it!”

“...Very well!” The old witch was silent for a long while, before forcing the words out of her mouth.

After picking another time to meet, Leylin left the area with a smile about his lips.

He had been planning on collaborating with her since after their first meeting.

The spiritual force potion that he had shown earlier was naturally the ancient potion formula for the Tears of Mary.

Back when he was an acolyte, he had already completed a simplified version of it—the Blood Vengeance Potion.

After he had advanced into a Rank 1 Warlock and upgraded the A.I. Chip, Leylin finally possessed the capabilities to restore the original incomplete formula of the potion.

This potion was indeed befitting of use by the ancient Magi. According to the A.I. Chip's simple calculation, the Tears of Mary currently proved to be extremely beneficial for Leylin to speedily increase his spiritual force.

A large amount of spirits that had to be harvested, combined with the early stages of preparatory work, was extremely complicated and savage. The brutality contained was leagues above that of brewing the Blood Vengeance Potion! If the light Magi were to find out, Leylin's only outcome would be a chase to the death, and even interrogation regarding the formula.

Leylin did not have the time and effort to take on such a risk.

Moreover, due to the potion formula's special nature, the magicians who could handle the preparatory work had to have the strength of an official Magus and a deep understanding regarding the aspect of spirits.

Right now, the old witch was the only one that fulfilled this criterion.

Within the Four Seasons Garden, there were sure to be Magi who were able to fulfill these requirements, but Leylin wouldn't even consider it.

This spiritual potion, which was suitable for official Magi, was much more costly than those suitable for acolytes. Furthermore, it was an ancient potion! Leylin wasn't so stupid as to think that he could keep possession of this formula. It would definitely be seized in the name of the organisation.

Even though the organisation was sure to give him some benefits, would it outweigh the advantages of having sole possession of the formula?

A potion that could raise one's spiritual power was a temptation that no official Magus would be able to resist.

As a result, with Leylin's persuasion, the old witch quickly agreed.

In addition, the two of them made an unbreakable vow, to which the Trial's Eye bore witness.

The old witch was even forced to swear not to leak any information about Leylin or the potion formula.

This was, of course, at Leylin's request. This way, even if someone found out the old witch's secret, they would not be able to trace it back to Leylin.

In fact, Leylin pushed all the risk of material gathering onto the old witch!

Hence, he did not hesitate to give her 40% of the potions that would be brewed!

As for the formula of the potion, Leylin had given the old witch most of the contents of the first half. As for the few most crucial steps, it was solely controlled by him.

As long as he held on to those key steps, Leylin didn't need to worry about the old witch possibly rebelling against him.

These last few procedures were not only extremely tedious but also required the help of the A.I. Chip to achieve true success. Even if others had gotten the complete formula, they might not be able to brew the potion successfully.

As for the witch who needed the potion, she had no choice but to toil for Leylin, taking on the extreme risk of harvesting souls, and also completing the bloody preparation of the early stages of the brewing process.

After signing the contract, Leylin and the old witch were, to some extent, in the same boat, so the matter of being referred to a dark guild would naturally be followed up.

"But that old witch's reaction was a little strange. She agreed so easily in order to obtain the potion. I was prepared to give her more materials, but

she actually agreed to my conditions so quickly, almost as if the potion wasn't for herself, but for someone else..."

The wheels in Leylin's head were constantly turning as he ambled along.

"No, this is better for me. If I have misgivings about this arrangement, then I will have something that I can use as blackmail material..."

Under the setting sun's light, Leylin's shadow was drawn out onto the streets, looking somewhat malevolent, as if it were a devil...

In the shop from before.

The old witch stood there silently until she confirmed Leylin's departure. After that, she walked to the counter and pressed on a hidden area.

Boom!

A mechanical sound was heard, and the wall at the back of the shop was pushed backwards, revealing a flight of steps that headed downwards.

The old witch held onto her cloak as she slowly walked down.

The staircase was extremely short, ending after just a couple of steps.

This was a basement, and it was positioned right below the old witch's shop. Moreover, there were many runes inscribed onto the walls of the basement room.

There were a few human bones scattered in the corners of the room as well.

There were many traces of scars on these bones, which could only let one imagine the torture and suffering that the owners went through while they were alive.

A frosty aura continuously encircled the room.

If Leylin was here, he would definitely recognise this familiar feeling. It was similar to the lab back in the Extreme Night City, where he was trying to create vengeful spirits.

Sssii! The old witch lit a candle in the centre of the room.

This candle was a transparent white, yet the flame was a dark green. The

old witch's horrendous countenance looked even more malicious under the flame.

"Mother..."

Whoosh! A black tornado swept across the basement, and after a flash of black gas, there was suddenly a translucent figure in the basement.

This figure belonged to a young girl wearing a simple dress. Her shadow was extremely faint as if she was on the verge of dissipating.

"My daughter!" A kindly, yet heartbroken expression appeared on the old witch's face.

"What happened just now? Why did I feel a strong and vicious energy burst out upstairs?" The girl's expression was one of suspicion.

"No! It's nothing, just a slight dispute while I was doing business..."

The old witch looked tense. "Did it hurt you?"

"I'm alright, it's only that..." The girl crouched on the floor and hugged her knees. "Don't bother with me anymore; it has already costed you large amounts of resources to protect my existence. If not for me, wouldn't you have long since advanced?"

"My dear daughter!" The old witch's eyes reddened, and she wanted to hug her daughter, yet her two hands could only weave through the girl's ghostly figure.

Following which, the girl's arms turned even more illusory, as if they were going to scatter any moment.

"Oh! No! Why is this even faster than before?"

Fright appeared on the old witch's face, and she frantically withdrew various items from her robes and placed them on the floor, forming a tiny spell formation.

In the center of the formation, there was a spirit trapped within a crystal ball.

"Almighty Defiling Mother, I hereby sacrifice the fear of this spirit in

return for your blessings...”

The old witch continued to chant in an extremely awkward sounding incantation, all while pointing at the spirit.

“Ah...” The sound of anguish and terror travelled outwards from within the crystal ball, threads of silvery-white gas constantly being drawn out from the spirit’s body.

The silvery-white gas quickly supplemented the girl’s body, and her almost dissipated body gradually became more stable.

“It’s starting again! I don’t want to do this... It’s too... too cruel...” The girl quietly sobbed.

“I found a potion today, and the formula is said to have been used by ancient Magi to raise their spiritual power. It’ll definitely be effective for you! Stay strong! Stay strong for a little while longer, and mother will definitely help you regain your physical body.”

The old witch continuously consoled her.

Chapter 164: Participate And Plunder

Leylin did not know of the incident that happened after he left the small shop.

After coming to an agreement with the old witch, he first went to the most famous and lavish restaurant in the Nightless City for a sumptuous meal. Following that, he brought gifts to Crew's villa to thank him for divulging some information beforehand.

As for Crew, after he saw Leylin who had successfully become a member of the Four Seasons Garden, his shocked expression almost caused Leylin to laugh.

Although the Four Seasons Garden was rated as first class with complete experimentation facilities, it was undeniable that in terms of enjoyment it was still lacking to what the Nightless City had to offer.

Leylin finally understood why many members who had a dormitory in the headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden still visit the Nightless City during their vacation period.

For Magi, their long lifespan and inhuman strength allowed them to easily obtain much influence and status.

And apart from research and analysis, these mortal pleasures became one of their ways of entertainment.

Upon seeing no hope of advancing further, many elderly Magi would retire from their organisations and into Nightless City, enjoying their life to the fullest.

Leylin's neighbour, Crew, was a good representation of those kinds of people.

However, for the time being, this matter was too far in the future for Leylin to even be thinking about, since he was still young and had a lot of potential to rise in power. It was far too early to get discouraged.

Whiling the time away was just a method for him to vent and relax during his free time.

.....

Time passed quickly, and three days later, Leylin abided by the promise and met with the old witch once again.

“Follow me! I’ll bring you to a meeting with the organisation that’s backing me!”

She brought Leylin out of Nightless City.

In a rather isolated forest, the old witch took out a ghost mask and put it on. “The dark Magi organisations and light Magi ones are different. Any divulgence of information will lead us into trouble. Hence, many members conceal their identity. You had better cover your face and think of a nickname!”

It seemed that before obtaining the complete formula of the Tears of Mary, the old witch had already treated Leylin to be in an alliance with her.

After all, compared to promises and pledges, the constraints bound by benefits were more everlasting.

“My nickname is ‘Old Devil’. Don’t call me by the wrong name!” The old witch reminded him, apparently worried.

“Concealing identities? I like this idea!” Leylin nodded, and his facial muscles twisted. The colour of his hair also changed from jet-black to silver white.

At the same time, he fitted a mask onto his face. “When we reach there, call me ‘Blood Rogue’!”

The dark Magi’s system was much more appropriate for Leylin’s tastes.

In addition, hiding his identity would also be useful for his work within the Four Seasons Garden.

The meeting was conducted at the bottom of a swamp.

Even though this place could be likened to hell for regular humans, for Leylin and official Magi, this was just a matter of walking a few steps further.

After passing through the swamp, which was emitting a putrid smell, Leylin found himself in a space under the ground, which had been set up at that instant.

“You’re late! Old Devil! And you seem to have brought in fresh blood?”

A black mouse, the size of a burly adult, stood on its hind legs, as it stared fiercely at Leylin, its small eyes full of distrust.

“Yes, he is the one I’ve spoken about before. His name is ‘Blood Rogue’!”

“Although the blood reeking aura on him tells me that he is a dark Magus, but those turncoat trashes who had gone to the light Magi’s side are too many. We need a deeper level of confirmation...”

Besides the black mouse was a bald Magus whose facial features seemed to have melted. There was also a large black boa coiled around its body.

“He has frightened my baby!”

The boa, upon seeing Leylin immediately retreated with fear, as if seeing its natural enemy. Afterwards, it then respectfully laid down on the floor showing its allegiance to Leylin. This turned the bald Magus’ expression extremely unsightly.

Leylin understood then that the fact the boa bowed in front of him was due to his Giant Kemoyin Serpent’s bloodline.

This was an ancient creature’s bloodline, which had a natural disposition and control over its own species.

“Damn it!” The bald Magus attacked.

Something that looked like bestial claws appeared in the air and pounced at Leylin, the attack accompanied by the howls of wild creatures.

“You’re looking to die!”

Leylin roared, and a scarlet light bursting out of his body as he scratched at the air with his right hand!

Innumerable black shadows emerged from the darkness and twined around those bestial claws. Sssii! White vapour emerged unceasingly, and

the beast claws engulfed within the black shadows began to dissolve, turning into drops of black liquid that dripped onto the floor.

“Ugh!” Meanwhile, the bald Magus turned pale and he retreated a few steps, seeming to have taken a little damage.

“Hahahaha... What did I just see? Venom Snake, you actually cannot even control a newbie!”

A female Magus wearing a white mask mocked him.

“Hmph, you just wait!” The bald Venom Snake stared coldly at Leylin but did not attack him a second time.

Before arriving here, the old witch had already given Leylin a brief introduction.

This small organisation was formed by a few dark Magi after several trades, so there weren't any strict rules, so much so that all the members had their identities concealed.

However, after some time, the organisation expanded in power, and could already rival the existence of medium tiered guilds.

As the members were all dark Magi, the entry requirements were extremely lax. Many members had enmity between them, but against the immense pressure from the light Magi, they still chose to ally themselves with this organisation.

As for the previous few Magi who tried to make things difficult for Leylin, it was a mere formality.

Right now, Leylin had displayed his prowess, so naturally, no one else dared to provoke him.

“Alright now! Blood Rogue is referred by me. Furthermore, I can vouch for him!” The old witch said.

“Since Old Devil's already said this, and all who join us need to make a soul pledge, it's definitely not a problem!” A Magus, with the head of a tiger, spoke.

From what Leylin had heard from the old witch, she had entered this

organisation a long time ago and could be considered an elder. From the looks of it, this seemed to be true.

“Alright! The reason why we’re gathered here today isn’t to welcome the new guy... How is the plan from the previous time we met going on?”

Another Magus, who had enveloped himself in a green fog, inquired.

“Since we’re all here, then it must mean that we’re all into this. Also, we can give our newbie a test!” The baldy Venom Snake stared at Leylin.

“Attacking a secret plane huh? Count me in, but also give me an equal portion of the resources obtained!”

Leylin said blandly.

This was something that the old witch told him earlier.

Such a large group of dark Magi gathering was not just to exchange resources.

To them, self-production was too slow. The best way was still to plunder resources from the light Magi!

Also, it was not that the dark Magi did not produce their own resources. However, during the time of managing their own secret planes, they also plundered to increase their harvest.

Leylin only understood all these recently.

But the reason why he had joined a dark Magi’s organisation was precisely for this reason, so he was naturally supportive of their plan.

“Good! Since everyone’s in agreement, I’ll go through the entire plan.”

“The secret plane I’ve discovered this time is located in a small-scaled secret storage plane used by the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower. There’s an enforcement group comprised of official Magi keeping an eye on it, and the strongest Magus among them has an elemental essence conversion of above 80%. I’ll lead him away, so I want 40% of our profit!”

The Magus within the green fog spoke.

“I agree!”

“I agree!”

... This had obviously been agreed upon previously, and the surrounding Magi looked at each other and quickly voiced their agreement as they nodded.

“To be so certain that he can guide that Magus away must mean that that Magus within the green fog is very strong! He must be on the verge of advancing to the 2nd rank!”

Leylin shivered inwardly. He was very clear about the strength he held, and his position in the group.

Just based on the advantage of Warlocks in the innate spells and vitality, adding on to his current elemental essence conversion, right now he could defeat a semi-converted elemental Magus head on. However, towards those Magi with over 80% elemental essence conversion, he still did not stand a chance.

As for the members in this dark Magi organisation, they were mostly semi-converted elemental Magus, who would be considered as elites within the south coast.

As for small scaled secret planes, they were different from the Four Seasons Garden that Leylin saw previously which spanned over 1 million mu.

The small scaled secret planes were set up by Magi who wished to store resources and other precious resources. Just like the Dylan Gardens, the area might not be extremely vast, but the items within were extremely valuable.

As for Four Seasons Garden’s secret plane, it was a large scaled resource production point. As the area was vast, the construction cost was extravagant. Hence they had a rank 2 Magus guarding over it.

It was evident that if this organisation that Leylin was in attempted to rob the Four Seasons Garden’s secret plane, the number of members who went would spell the number of deaths.

However, to deal with a small scaled secret plane which only had a rank

1 Magus as the guardian, as long as the plan was executed perfectly, it was very likely to be a success.

“Alright! Since there are no other questions, then let us set off now!”

The Magus in the green fog withdraw a watch and looked at it.

“Let’s go! My precious is already longing for fresh blood!” The baldy Venom Snake smiled in a savage and malevolent manner...

.....

In a place not too far from Nightless City.

There were several man-made buildings, from which Magi in disguise frequently entered and exited.

“This is the branch of Ennea Ivory Ring Tower. The secret plane that I inquired about is within this place...”

The voice of the Magus within the green fog travelled over, faintly discernible, “I’ll lead the guardian away. You have to plunder the secret plane before the guards of Nightless City arrive. Act based on the plan and remember, your time limit is 5 minutes!!!”

“Don’t worry, it’s not like this is our first time working together!”

The Old Devil, which the old witch was playing the role of, laughed coldly.

Chapter 165: Crimson Palm

“Go!”

With the command, the Magus enshrouded in green mist acted first.

After an incantation, he floated in the air, green mist continuously emanating from his body.

Whoosh! All of the dark green fog turned into a hurricane and struck at a part of the division in Leylin’s field of vision.

Sssii! This green fog seemed to have extremely acidic properties.

Several acolytes wailed as they turned into white bones after the fog engulfed them. Even the surrounding ground turned even softer and muddier, turning into a marsh.

Even the light from part of the defensive spell formation trembled under the corrosive power of the green fog, as if it was going to shatter at any moment.

“Who is it? You actually dare to attack a division of the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower?”

An enraged voice sounded out. Following which, a figure wearing black armour flew up into the air.

“Kill!” The black clothed figure coldly shouted, and smoke billowed from the ground, turning into a skull as it struck the green fog.

“Hehehe...” The Magus in the green fog cackled. Under his command, the green fog took on the form of a scorpion as it clashed with the skull.

Boom!

Bang!

The surroundings seemed to have been struck by 10 different hurricane force winds, which then dissipated in all directions.

The mighty destructive power immediately caused the division’s building to be shaven off by a layer.

“Is this the might of a Magus who has fulfilled the requirements for breaking through to the next rank?” Leylin watched the actions of the Magus in mid-air closely, a strange light in his eyes.

With the Magus in the green mist taking control, the battle in the air became increasingly one-sided.

“It’s our turn now!” Rodent, who was half the size of a regular man, licked his lips.

“Newbie! Don’t get intimidated! If you hinder this operation, I’ll be the first to claim your life!”

Venom Snake threatened him.

“If you obstruct me, you’ll definitely be the one dead!”

Leylin, who was going by the name of Blood Rogue, made a sound as he snickered. A potion exploded and formed a red membrane on his body.

“Giant’s green fog is an extremely powerful type of area of effect spell. It can deal devastating damage to all targets within the area of effect!”

The old witch who was wearing the mask explained to Leylin.

“Be careful; although Giant has lured the strongest enemy away, the remaining enforcers won’t be easy to deal with either...”

“Hehe... Those light Magi are like little rabbits. I’ve long since wanted to rip open their chests and savour the taste of their innards...”

A zombie-like dark Magus licked his lips as he turned into a gust of black wind, charging into the division’s building, whose defensive spell formation had broken down.

Whoosh!

As if his action signalled the start, dozens of strange colours with powerful energy waves radiating from them charged towards the division.

“Crap! It’s a trap, inform the team leader quickly!”

The light Magi who were by the entrance watched the dozens of dark Magi dashing towards them, and their expressions immediately changed.

Even their voices cracked.

“Haha... Boss Giant may have some difficulty killing your leader, but it's not a problem for him to stall for time! Even if your leader finds something wrong, it'll be too late for him to save you...”

The old witch laughed loudly as she tossed two silver coloured metal balls towards the building.

Boom!

The silver metal balls both exploded like grenades. After the shock waves had dissipated, a spell continuously encircled the area and the air was contorted, even to the point that the energy particles in the air were unstable.

Bzzt bzzt The sound of electromagnetic interference boomed throughout the area.

“Not good! It's an Elemental Fluctuation Bomb! They actually have something like that!”

The light Magi's faces were ashen as they quickly retreated.

“Alright! None of the communication spells work, and space magic is now impossible to use. Comrades enjoy this blood fest! You only have a limit of 5 minutes...”

The old witch waved her hand.

“Spirit Explosion!”

Boom! A translucent spirit suddenly appeared in the surroundings of the light Magi and exploded.

Against the energy waves that targeted the spirit, one light Magus retreated several steps. Blood began to flow from his seven facial orifices.

However, in the instant that he retreated, a translucent worm appeared from the contortions in the air, directly charging towards the light Magus.

Ka-Cha! A defensive lightning shield appeared around the light Magus' body, protecting him within.

Pu! The lightning shield crumpled like paper in the face of the worm, shattering from just the first touch. The crystal like worm drove its way right into the Magus' mouth.

"Ugh..." The light Magus' face turned purple, looking like an eggplant as he clutched at his throat and collapsed.

"Hehe, I don't usually have the luxury of using magic as I please and collecting souls! Same rules, all spirits collected in battles must be handed over to me. I guarantee a good price!"

Silver light permeated the old witch's hands as she retrieved a crystal ball from her robes and approached the light Magus, who had lost all signs of resistance. Her lips moved non-stop as she chanted something.

Following her incantation, the light Magus' eyes became blurry, and an indistinct human figure was pulled out from that Magus' body.

"This old witch is really a lunatic! She's actually collecting spirits directly from the battlefield!"

Leylin watched her work, unperturbed by her surroundings, and suddenly began to regret his initial decision.

However, it was just for a moment that he shot a glance in the direction of the old witch. Immediately after, he spilled some red powder onto his two hands.

"Crimson Palm!"

As he chanted, a layer of crimson coloured light suffused both of Leylin's arms. His palms turned extremely slender, and his fingernails turned razor sharp and also slightly transparent.

This was a rank 1 spell from the Book of Giant Serpent that Leylin had long since recorded into his memory through the A.I. Chip.

Although his rank 1 spell's might was a little lower, with only a degree of 20 or so, with the addition of his elemental essence conversion, it was enough to deal with a normal rank 1 Magus.

Right now, Leylin was hiding his identity, so innate gifts and spells that

were eye catching could not be used.

However, he had already prepared another set of spells to cast in times like this.

[Host's palms have had a slight adjustment in strength. Strength in arms are now stronger, with an added effect of poison!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

Looking at the surroundings, where every Magus had found his or her own opponent, Leylin smiled as he casually picked on a light Magus who came charging at him.

Crash!

The slender, yet extremely menacing fingers clawed through the void, and large energy waves surged through the air as if the surface of a lake had been ripped through.

Leylin's body flashed as his red shadow rapidly moved around on the battlefield, leaving behind only a series of mirages.

"Who exactly are you guys? Which organisation are you from?"

The opponent that Leylin chose was a middle-aged man wearing loose white robes, yet an extremely aged voice came from his larynx.

Leylin only clawed viciously as a reply.

Thump!

Leylin struck with his right hand, directly slashing a few marks onto the opposing Magus' body.

In front of Leylin's Crimson Palm, the official Magus' standard white robes were like paper, getting slashed into pieces, and leaving behind a large hole.

"Elemental Shield!" The middle-aged Magus roared.

Brown energy particles gathered unceasingly and solidified to form a thin, yellow, full-body armour, protecting his entire body. Even his head was shielded with a helmet, leaving just a pair of sparkling eyes.

“I will ask again, who is behind this attack, dark Magus!” The middle aged man continuously staggered backwards, his hands stealthily reaching into his robes.

“You talk too much!”

Leylin struck again, his crimson claws leaving a scratch on the yellow armour.

“It’s useless!” The middle aged Magus howled. Traces of brown energy particles were continuously being absorbed into the dents of the armour, quickly restoring most traces of damage.

[Target’s innate spell has been scanned and recorded. Beginning simulation and parameter testing to find out the weakest point!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned. It also projected the 3D image of a human figure wearing the yellow armour. Several points on the armour were marked red, representing the weak points.

While Leylin attacked, the middle-aged Magus withdrew a scroll from his robes, from which tremendous energy waves emanated.

“A formidable spell in a scroll? I can’t let him activate it!” Leylin’s pupils contracted as he let loose an extremely high-pitched shriek.

“Hisssss...” This was the voice of an extremely venomous snake, and was so unpleasant to the ears that it could draw goosebumps from others.

When the sound waves reached the middle-aged Magus, a blank look appeared on his face, and the speed at which he was opening the scroll slowed.

“Right here!” Leylin’s footsteps moved in a bizarre manner as he rapidly increased his speed and covered a distance of over ten meters. In the blink of an eye, he arrived in front of the middle-aged Magus.

The bright red light of the Crimson Palm on his right hand shone even more vividly as he clawed at the area 3 inches above the Magus’ abdomen, which was protected by his armour.

The first claw! A depression the size of a fist appeared in the brown

armour, and a large part of the armour fell.

The second claw! The middle-aged Magus' innate defensive spell was destroyed by Leylin.

"No! Please forgive me, the value of a Magus kept in captive is high!"

It was obvious that this light Magus was used to living a privileged lifestyle, and lacked the will to even fight for his own life, sinking to his knees in front of Leylin.

However, Leylin's face was ice cold, like a thousand year old frost. His right hand struck again, crushing the middle-aged Magus' head like a watermelon.

Crunch!

White brain matter and scarlet blood stained Leylin's hands. His hands seemed even more demonic and alluring.

"There's an unexpected reward!"

Leylin picked up the Magus' scroll, his face filled with glee.

"A pretty good scroll; the energy waves are extremely strong. It seems like it should be able to hold its own even amongst rank 1 spells! It should be worth quite a bit of magic crystals..."

Right at this moment, a wretched scream caught Leylin's attention.

Chapter 166: A Successful Retreat

Leylin turned around and saw the baldy's snake shoot an ice bullet, which shattered the innate defense spell of his opponent.

At the same time, the precious boa of his charged, revealing razor sharp fangs and sinking them into the light Magus' neck.

Baldy's opponent was a rather young looking Magus with blonde hair and blue eyes. He had an extremely cheery disposition.

It was a pity, however, that right now, this light Magus had death written all over his face. With the continuous constriction of the boa, his life was drained away.

After killing the light Magus, the baldy's Venom Snake threw Leylin a provocative look.

However, Leylin acted as if he saw nothing, and dashed right into the division of the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

"Right now, he wants to be petty about such things and not steal treasures? This Magus is definitely somewhat mental!"

Leylin hurriedly ran past the doors and arrived at a place that seemed to be a library.

"These are all information meant for acolytes, so I'll forgo them. A.I. Chip, scan!" Leylin's eyes hurriedly swept the area. This library consisted of two floors, and the total area was rather huge. However, Leylin had read most of the books found here before, so they were not of much value to him.

[Beep! Mission establishing, beginning scan...]

After which, a light blue image was formed and appeared in Leylin's vision.

Through this image, Leylin could easily discover that between the two floors, there was an extremely tiny passage.

Right now, there was no one in the library, and books and chairs were

strewn across the floor. It seemed that the people who were here had escaped quickly.

Leylin strode past the lobby and came to the hidden spot.

“It’s in here huh?”

Leylin looked at the wall before his hands punched into it without hesitation!

Boom! Dust flew around in the room, and an extremely narrow passage was revealed at the collapsed portion of the wall.

“Hmm?”

The passage was extremely short, and at the back, there was a small room. There were several shelves upon which some memory crystal balls sat on. Moreover, in the room sat three quivering acolytes.

“Ennea Ivory Ring Tower huh? George isn’t here!”

Leylin gave a quick scan and slightly waved his Crimson Palm.

A blurry red light filled the small room.

The three acolyte’s eyes turned red, and they immediately lost consciousness, their bodies still trembling as signs of life became less obvious. From the looks of it, they wouldn’t live past today.

In front of an official Magus like Leylin, these regular acolytes’ lives were like those of ants. With just a slight misstep, he might accidentally kill a few of them.

Leylin paid no mind as he stepped across the acolytes’ bodies, which were still involuntarily trembling, and came to the front of one of the wooden shelves.

“Elementary Meditation Techniques” “Potioneering Foundations...”
“Rune Theories” “Study of Particles”

The crystal balls on the wooden shelves were more valuable items, which could immediately transmit information into a magician’s mind without them forgetting anything.

Leylin's eyes swept past the crystal balls and noticed that they contained information meant for acolytes, which was not of much use to him. However, there was a clutter of black crystal balls in the middle of all of them, with various tags showing the high-grade information stored within. This caused Leylin to grin...

A dozen seconds later, Leylin walked out from the library, which combusted in flames just seconds later.

At this moment, the whole division was in chaos, with magic spells being continuously fired across the battlefield.

After killing most of the official Magus enforcers, most of the division's defenses fell apart.

Some were even acolytes who couldn't resist the attacks of a group of dark Magi!

The dark Magi wilfully plundered resources as they deemed fit, destroying everything they could see before them, and letting loose their inner cravings for darkness.

Leylin watched the scene with a blank expression, using the A.I. Chip to scan the entire branch.

He didn't have much time, and there was at most a few minutes before Nightless City's allied forces arrived. No matter how insane Leylin was, he wouldn't dare to contend with a large number of light Magi.

"From the structure, this isn't a division of the academy. Rather, this is more similar to a research organisation, with a lot fewer people here..."

Leylin traversed an area with disorganised architecture and idly looked around.

"I found it!"

An excited voice rang out. "Guys, come here! I've found the entrance to the secret plane!"

"Hm?"

"That's great!"

Multiple equally eager voices came for all around the region, and the dark Magi from before all gathered in a small garden.

Here, the large Rodent Magus was constantly rubbing his black claws, his beard sticking up, and his tiny eyes greedily fixated upon an oval object in the sky.

That object seemed to be a mirror with silver rays of light surrounding it. In the centre was a deep and dark spiral.

“I’m sorry, my magic can only show you the entrance to the secret plane. It will take some time to forcefully gain entry!”

The large Rodent immediately asked, “Which of you captured any opposing Magi? Interrogate them and get the password and method to enter!”

“Look for Old Devil, she’s an expert in this field!”

The zombie-like Magus was carrying the naked corpse of a female acolyte, gnawing her flesh from time to time as if savouring a delicacy.

“Hehe... That Magus’ spirit was extracted smoothly by me earlier; it seems like this will be a great harvest!”

The old witch cackled and walked towards the silver circular hole, while chanting an extremely awkward sounding incantation.

Weng Weng!

The void emitted energy waves as the circular entrance became enlarged, revealing the dark space of what seemed to be a storage.

“Haha... We have struck the jackpot...” The giant mouse rushed in like a whirlwind, with the following dark Magi following behind.

“I’ll stay behind to keep watch!” The old witch tossed several powder-like substances on the ground. “Anyway, we have to divide them in the end...”

Leylin exchanged a meaningful look with the old witch as he went into the secret plane.

This secret plane was extremely small—about the size of a large

warehouse. There was only one passage for people to walk about. On both sides of the warehouse, there were many labeled items and ingredients.

“Hurry! Pick the most valuable items and go, and burn the rest that we don’t need!”

Zombie tossed the female corpse aside and looked at the door of the warehouse, before stepping in with a snort.

Leylin looked at the dark Magi who were happily shoving items into their pockets, and could not help but shake his head.

In the Magus world, those magic artifacts which had spatial capabilities were extremely precious. At most, Leylin had only heard of them in legends and folklore. Until now, he had never seen any Magus owning an item like that.

Hence, most Magi could only carry the most valuable items with them. Every time they went on a mission, they would be carrying many sacks, with some even having horse carriages that were filled with empty chests.

As for right now, there were too many items in this warehouse. Leylin and the others could only choose the most valuable ones, and as for other large items, these dark Magi, who were already consumed by greed, could only choose to destroy them.

“If I had a spatial ring or something like that in future, then it would be much more convenient!”

Leylin rushed into a section where the shelves were filled with various ingredients, as well as heaps of magic crystals that had been tossed in a corner like trash.

Leylin quickly stuffed the precious materials into his own pockets. He immediately ignored the low-grade magic crystals, and only the high-grade magic crystals and magic crystal cards caught his eye.

At this moment, he was still indulging in his fantasies.

“Of course, rather than getting any spatial ring, the best thing to do would be to occupy this territory. That would be real profit without any

investment!”

Leylin was a little regretful about this, but he could only bury his delusions into the bottom of his heart.

[Beep! 4 Minute 37 Seconds have passed in the countdown, reaching close to the value set by the Host!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“There’s no more time! Retreat!” Leylin’s eyes reflected his resolution, and he speedily left the warehouse.

“Nightless City’s forces are arriving. Run!”

After Leylin left the secret plane, he heard Rodent’s flustered voice.

“Go!”

Leylin and the old witch nodded, and transformed into two streaks of shadows, which disappeared into the air.

After the retreat of all the dark Magi, Leylin turned back to observe the sight of black flames emitting from Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

Some of the Magi from the Nightless City who were using rank 1 flying magic descended from the sky.

.....

A giant beast dashed past the land.

Looking on, this beast was over 50 metres tall and 200 metres long. Its appearance closely resembled a large hippopotamus, and its jaws occupied almost half of its body size.

With every step that this gargantuan beast took, deep imprints would be made on the ground. Also, there were also tremors, as if mini earthquakes were occurring.

The surrounding animals would scatter and flee after seeing this beast, not daring to stay a moment longer.

Within this beast, the group of dark Magi from earlier were gathered inside of a large hall.

The Magus wrapped in green fog, who went by the name of “Giant,” stood unscathed in the middle, and his aura had not even decreased by much. It was evident that he had disposed of his opponent with much ease.

“Alright! Since all of us here have made our vows and have undergone the judgment of the Trial’s Eye, take out 50% worth of the items that you have plundered!”

Giant spoke in a cold voice.

Despite the chaos of the Magi below, under the constraints of the power of the higher ups, as well as their oaths, they hastily piled some magic crystals and materials in the centre of the hall.

Soon enough, the materials and magic crystals formed a small mountain.

“This all amounts to at least ten million magic crystals!” Leylin’s eyes flashed as he mentally calculated.

“Moreover, this is only 50%. Which is to say, the division of the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower has lost close to twenty million magic crystals, along with the destruction of other items... The Ennea Ivory Ring Tower is going to go nuts this time...”

After giving it some thought, he was a little curious and asked the old witch beside him in a low voice.

“Do we really have to give up 50% of our profits? Isn’t that too much?”

Chapter 167: To Maraud

“You thought... the magic crystals are all for Giant?”

The old witch snuck a glance at Giant, who was saying something, and answered Leylin under her breath.

“Am I wrong?” Leylin was a little astonished.

“Of course not. Even though Giant is pretty impressive, he’s no rank 2 Magus. Out of this pile, he’ll get at most 40% of it!” She pointed to the little mountain in the middle of the room.

“As for the rest, they’ll all go to ‘Boss’!” The old witch was vague.

“Boss?!” Hearing this phrase started Leylin’s imagination.

Magi only respected power. For even the old witch to call someone ‘Boss’, this must mean that this person, Boss, was at least a rank 2 Magus, right?

“Who else? Who do you think is the one warding off the light Magi’s divination magic?”

She retorted with a manic laugh.

“According to what I know, there are at least two to three dark Magi organisations like us. As for their backers, there will also be various people controlling from behind the scenes...”

As they were in a mutual alliance through the previous agreement with the potions, the old witch was evidently placing more trust in Leylin, hence she just told him some information that had been withheld from him.

“Marauding the light Magi’s secret plane is definitely not carried out on a whim by the dark Magi. On the contrary, these operations are systematic and are all premeditated!”

A notion quickly flew through Leylin’s mind and occupied his thoughts.

“Who knows, there might be several powerhouses behind the dark Magi domain that also have a hand in this!” Leylin grinned.

“This seems to be getting more and more interesting...”

However, this had nothing to do with Leylin. His current goal was to join in the dark Magi organisation’s looting operations and obtain large amounts of resources.

Just the efforts from tonight had brought in a revenue of five to six hundred thousand magic crystals! This was obviously more convenient and faster than doing missions for the Four Seasons Garden.

Of course, the risk was no small matter and if he were to be found out, he’d be chased to the ends of the world and be killed.

This was also why every member who joined concealed their identity, and even the few leaders of the organisation had no idea of the real identities of their members.

“Alright! Collect your own share! Remember not to squander them quickly. It’s better to spend them only after some time!”

“Also, after this mission, those mad dogs from the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower will definitely go around biting people blindly in a rouse to find our locations. So remember to stay low...”

Giant who was wrapped in green fog continued to explain of some matters as he waved his hands, “It’s alright now, you guys can leave. Our exchange meetings must also be halted for a while, as for the concrete details it will be made known again...”

.....

Baldy Venom Snake had had half of his face melted and the other side filled with many bumps. He was continuously combing through the black forest.

And, with a big black boa lay coiled on his body, he presented a rather horrifying appearance.

Bang!

Suddenly, Baldy’s face changed as he rolled to the side.

At the same time, an explosion caved in the ground on which he had

previously stood. A purple flame blazed in the surroundings, creating a hundred square meter radius of charred zone.

“Blood Rogue! It must be you! Get your ass out here!” Baldy Venom Snake snarled.

A layer of stiff hair grew on his body, altering his appearance to that of a gorilla.

What he received in answer were multiple fireballs that appeared from within the shadows.

Boom!

The speed of the black fireballs was incredibly quick. Before he even had the chance to react, they had reached his body and exploded in front of him.

The bald Venom Snake’s chest was charred. Black hair kept falling off, and the pit of his stomach was hollowed in. There was even the piercing sound of bones breaking, and his body flew out as if he had been hit by the head of a train.

The boa that had been hung around his shoulders was immediately burnt by the flames, turning into white ashes, scattering onto the floor bit by bit.

“Such a mighty spell?” The bald Venom Snake did not even have time to lament for his precious pet. He was frightened silly by Leylin’s Latent Fireball.

“This spell has to be a model that is modified by various large Magi organisation or had its might amplified. Who exactly are you?”

Venom Snake looked at Leylin who slowly walked out from the darkness, suspicions streaked across his face.

“Who I am is not important. What’s important is that you will definitely die here today!” Leylin had even used his Latent Fireball, so naturally he revealed the determination to kill this baldy.

“Aren’t you afraid of the organisation tracing it to you?”

Venom Snake lay on the floor as if he had lost his mobility and was not able to get up.

“I have only signed a contract not to divulge the organisation’s secrets, but not one that doesn’t allow me to pursue a personal vendetta against my enemies!”

Leylin waved his hands forward and countless phantom hands appeared from the void, grabbing a small tree behind the baldy and crushing it to pieces. A yellow bug was retrieved from within the tree.

Pu! The yellow bug was smashed into bits in Leylin’s hands.

“Don’t do such useless things anymore!” Leylin stepped in closer.

“You’re leaving me with no choice! Second transfiguration!” The baldy bellowed.

Crash! In the blink of an eye, the muscles on his body grew and dense black hair grew out once again. Behind his back, two strips of flesh constantly raised, bursting out of his clothes. They turned into two furry claws.

His teeth became sharp, eyeballs completely red.

From the looks of it, he had turned into a mutated gorilla with four arms.

With the transformation of the bald Venom Snake, a strong energy wave was constantly emitted from his body.

“Activate!” Against this creature which was brandishing its fangs and claws, Leylin only smiled and chanted an incantation.

“Ding!” A crisp noise sounded and several green vines and muddy shafts emerged from the ground, turning into a prison like shape, suppressing the beast within.

“I gave you time not to let you prepare a spell, but for me to lay a trap!”

Leylin spoke leisurely, “You must have had the limbs of a powerful creature transplanted into your body to achieve such a transfiguration, huh? Moreover, it seems to be compatible with your innate defense

spell...”

“A pity however that you only transplanted the forelimbs of the Vajra Gorilla. As for creatures like these, they are suppressed by the energy particles of the Earth and Plant elements...”

All this were naturally the simulations done throughout the battle by the A.I. Chip.

After adopting the A.I. Chip’s suggestion Leylin completely controlled the pace of the battle. He had to admit that it all felt pretty good.

“Urghhh...” The gorilla creature in the cage continued to beat on its chest, showing the rage it was in.

Following which, many small plants and rock spears appeared from the ground within the cage, piercing through the creature’s body.

“Aooo...” The gorilla continued to roar in anguish, as his entire fur coat was dyed a crimson red.

Bang! A large explosion sounded.

Only two furry arms remained where the black gorilla had been, and the bald Venom Snake had disappeared without a trace.

Looking at this scene, Leylin was not surprised but smiled in a satisfied manner.

“He had even used the substitution spell that can only be used once a day?”

Following which, the sound of a spirit explosion was heard. The trees parted and the old witch carried Venom Snake who had fainted in her hands.

“How is it? Is it still going smoothly?” Leylin inquired.

“Not bad. There was still an amulet on his body limited to a one-time usage that caught me by surprise!” The old witch’s green eyes shone.

“This is a good opportunity since an official Magus’ spirit is extremely difficult to obtain!”

“Also, you’ll get half of the items here and I’ll take the other half!” Leylin had already gone through the bald Venom Snake’s belongings from his crippled body. In addition, He gave half of Venom Snake’s sack of loot to the old witch.

He was still prepared to maintain the trust between the two of them since they were going to be collaborating for a long time.

The old witch’s gaze revealed some fear while she looked at Leylin. Even though she was confident she could defeat the bald Venom Snake, she wouldn’t be able to do it so easily, and definitely not in this place. Such precise pre-calculations were beyond her.

Leylin was even able to predict the opponent’s escape route, and that was what shocked her the most.

“But by killing Venom Snake, aren’t you afraid the organisation will...” The old witch reminded him.

“Stop trying to scare me!” Leylin laughed, not at all bothered.

“Dark Magi are just a group of indifferent, self-serving people. Why would they seek trouble with me for a dead person? Furthermore, the grudge I had with Venom Snake was apparent to the others, so who could say anything about it?”

“It seems like you have already planned everything!” The old witch looked at Leylin, her expression complicated.

Leylin smiled without a reply.

It was indeed true that he had planned to kill Venom Snake a long time ago.

There were two motives behind it. First was to establish his might! He was a newbie who had just joined the organisation, so he would definitely undergo some suppression by others. In many organisations, the bullying newbies was a form of tradition. Through such means, Leylin could quickly show his prowess as a deterrence and to protect himself.

Of course, he only dared to do such a thing within dark Magi

organisations. If it were inside a light Magi organisation, no matter how powerful he was he would be beaten heavily. Who knows if he might even take the rap and be labelled as someone who had tried to sow discord amongst the unity of the light Magi?

As a result, while he was in Four Seasons Garden, Leylin had always kept a low profile and did his work without any complaints. Until now, his leader and teammates still viewed him in a positive light.

As for the second motive – which was Leylin's main objective – it was only for the benefits!

From today's operation of plundering the secret plane, Leylin managed to obtain five to six hundred thousand magic crystals. On top of that, he had also gotten Venom Snake's portion, and the total value came up to around a million, thus doubling his loot.

Wasn't Leylin's reason for joining a dark Magi organisation to obtain enough resources? Since that was his reason, why wouldn't he attack others?

Chapter 168: In Retrospect

Of course, even within dark Magi organisations, there were rules and regulations.

If Leylin kept doing this, it would result in others ganging up on him and eliminating him under the pretext of self-defense.

That was why Leylin needed to first cause some conflict, and then be able to act with a good reason to do so.

Honestly speaking, even if Venom Snake had not challenged him, he was also planning on instigating some of the weaker Magi and then blow the whole thing out of proportion.

Afterwards, he would use revenge as an excuse to righteously kill and then seize their treasures!

But that was it.

Leylin assessed that after this affair, other dark Magi would be slightly dissatisfied with his actions, so he couldn't let this get too far.

"You're really..." The old witch was suddenly regretful, "I haven't seen a youngster that's as cool headed but also crazy in a very long time..."

"Nope! I'm just someone with the will to live!" Leylin said with a brilliant smile.

"What about you? When will you get your goods?"

The moment this was brought up, the old witch's face stiffened. This was the only reason why she was working with Leylin and had been dragged along in the end.

"Today's harvest was pretty good, especially since we got two souls from official Magi. It shouldn't take long before we can finalize the product!"

"Notify me once it's finished, I'll be at Nightless City these few days!" Leylin nodded.

Following which, he approached the bald Venom Snake and undid the concealment spell, revealing the face of a middle aged man that had a

venerable countenance.

“It’s him!” The old witch cried out in alarm from behind him.

“You know him?” This aroused Leylin’s interest.

“No, I’ve only seen him a couple of times!” The old witch appeared rather rueful.

“He’s the head of a small light Magi faction, and he’s got a good reputation! Apparently, he’s quite skilled in transformation spells. I didn’t know he was actually a dark Magus!”

“This is quite normal! Dark Magi like to assume a righteous personality, just like you and me!”

Leylin’s silhouette melted into the darkness...

In the following days. Leylin lived a very pleasant life in Nightless City.

It couldn’t be denied that Nightless City was an unusually large Magi City, in which Leylin was able to enjoy all kinds of services tailored for a Magus’ pleasure.

Splash! Boiling tea water flowed out of an exquisite silver teapot into a tea cup engraved with purple flowery designs. A rich fragrance of black tea permeated the air of the whole lounge as it wafted back and forth.

Leylin sat in an armchair to the side with a serene expression. Behind him and under each of his legs were beautiful maids in revealing clothing who were extending their lily white and seemingly boneless small hands to massage him all over his body.

“How is it? The skills of maids are quite good, right? Want me to gift you a couple...”

A red-haired old Magus, who was standing to one side, was saying as he directed another maid to feed him grapes. Around him were a number of maids who waited upon him like he was a god.

“Don’t blame me for saying this Leylin, but your villa is much too simple. It doesn’t even have a guard dog! You’ll be the laughing stock for other Magi if you don’t do anything about this...”

Crew was squinting his eyes. His face revealed an expression of rapture.

“Stop trying to sell me your maids!” Leylin revealed a bitter laugh, “But you must know a lot of merchants in this field, right? You should introduce them to me someday!”

Leylin admitted that it was strange for there not to be a single person in the whole villa. Besides, he felt that he did need some people to help around while he lived in Nightless City, such as servants and the like.

“No problem! I’ll take you to Nightless City’s slave market tomorrow. Once you’re there, all your needs will be satisfied. Besides, there are even slaves from other races!”

Crew revealed an expression that said ‘I’m glad you came to your senses’. When he mentioned different races, a lewd smile was revealed on his old face.

Seeing the expression of this old pervert, Leylin was speechless.

He conveniently grabbed something that looked like a newspaper from the table and was immediately attracted by the eye-catching title.

“Ennea Ivory Ring Tower’s division under attack! Severe losses!”

“Tragedy! Dark Magi attack the Tallinn Highlands. All Magi present have perished!”

“It’s a declaration of war! The dark Magi have initiated the third great Magi war. What are you going to do? Please listen in detail to the analysis by our special guest, Nicholas Kajitel...”

Scenes of the havoc that Leylin and the others had wreaked were splashed all over the headlines.

In addition, all of the reports came had very eye-catching headings, and some even exaggerated to say that this was provocation from the dark Magi and a forewarning that there were plans to begin the third Magi war.

“Look at this! All they’ve been reporting these days is about that incident. The Ennea Ivory Ring Tower really suffered a massive loss, this time, worth at least a hundred million magic crystals...”

Crew looked to be rejoicing at their misfortune, and Leylin briefly wondered if there was some history between Crew and the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

“Tsk! A hundred million crystals! What wouldn’t I do to get those many crystals?”

Leylin, too, had an expression of obsessive desire on his face, “But these dark Magi are really quite daring to even provoke the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower!”

Leylin’s facial expressions and movements were flawless as if he really had no knowledge of the incident.

“Sigh... This has happened multiple times in the past, just that nobody can tell whether it’s the Night Crows or the Zombies,” Crew continued.

The Night Crows and Zombies were dark Magi organisations that operated in the shadows of Nightless City. Before Leylin’s arrival, both groups were infamous for having committed several huge crimes with ruthless methods.

The dark Magi organisation that Leylin was a part of was not either of these groups but another –it was called the Thousand Meddling Leaves – though they were just as notorious.

“With Ennea Ivory Ring Tower’s Magi enforcers and help from Nightless City, it should be possible to capture those bold dark Magi, right?”

“I’m afraid that’s not possible!”

Crew shook his head immediately. “The powers backing the dark Magi aren’t to be trifled with. Magi specializing in divination have had their spells achieve no effect, and we suspect that there’s at least a rank 2 Magus backing and giving them orders. We believe there might be even more than one of them...”

“I see.”

Leylin nodded, his expression turning to one of longing.

“A rank 2 Magus! I wonder if I’ll ever reach that level in this lifetime.”

His look made Crew's expression darken slightly.

Leylin was young and still had hope to achieve that.

But he was different. After consuming a large part of his lifespan, his body's vitality could no longer withstand the strain from another advancement. Furthermore, he had chosen the simplest route and broken through with the Grime Water, increasing the difficulty of breaking through to the next rank.

"Oh! My apologies!"

Upon noticing Crew's expression, Leylin gave a bow in apology.

"Don't worry about it. I just got nostalgic about some events in the past." The desolate look in his eyes faded away. "Thinking back to my decision then, I've missed too many opportunities. If given the chance to relive my life, I think I'd still choose to sign that contract, though."

Leylin understood his train of thought.

For many acolytes, even if they were aware of the existence of high-grade meditation techniques, they had no choice but to break through with the Grime Water.

After all, only strictly-managed Magi organisations and large Families held possession of high-grade meditation techniques. Typically, level 3 acolytes had no social connections nor any strong background, and it was basically impossible for them to obtain those techniques.

Hence, they would rather use the Grime Water and break through, and hope that after they advanced to an official Magus, they could find a way to make up for the disadvantages of this method.

However, even if there was such a method, it was not something any ordinary Magus could come into contact with. It might not even exist in the entire South Coast, and was more likely to be found only in the central continent.

As a result, most Magi could only service their organisation for their entire life, and then retire, living aimlessly the way Crew was now doing.

“Alright! Enough about this mood-dampening topic. I’ll bring you to the slave market tomorrow to see a friend of mine. She has quite a few quality goods, like the snake girl from the previous time that remains fresh in my memories. You definitely can’t miss this chance!”

At this point, Crew’s mood seemed to have brightened.

Leylin kept Crew company and they chatted for a while, and he had an exceedingly alluring time and sumptuous dinner before leaving Crew’s villa.

Sssii!

At this moment, the pocket-sized diary trembled, letting off a slight glow.

“Leylin! I’ve already prepared what you wanted. When can you come over?” The old witch’s voice traveled to his ears from a green secret imprint.

“Give me a moment, I’m on my way!”

Leylin was delighted at the message, as the old witch’s efficiency was better than he had anticipated.

Elm Street #231. It wasn’t Leylin’s first time here.

The shop was located in a very remote area, and most Magi would not be able to find their way here.

After Leylin entered, the old witch closed the door and hung a sign that read “Closed”.

Leylin, unconvinced by this level of security, set up a sound-proofing spell around them.

“Rumours have been flying recently. How is it on your end? Have you been discovered at all?” Leylin asked, somewhat worried.

“Don’t worry. I’ve lived in Nightless City for over a century, and I do have some contacts...” She seemed rather pleased with herself.

“Also, these are the materials that were mentioned in the contract. I

processed them using the method in the information you gave me! I did everything perfectly!”

The old witch positioned a dozen crystal soul spheres in the size of a thumb in a row, and placed it on the counter.

Within the soul, sphere were tens of expressionless spirits that seemed on the verge of dissipating. At the moment, many of them had lost their human form, which must have happened after brutal, inhuman torture.

“Has it really all been dealt with? The spirits need to have been immersed and soaked in immense suffering and hopelessness in order to achieve the best effect!”

“Hehe... I even captured a few spirits and experimented on them beforehand. On top of the basic pain that I can inflict, I also tortured their very souls. The effects are marvellous!” The old witch laughed excitedly, though it was a sound that caused others goosebumps.

Chapter 169: Tears of Mary

“Hm! The result appears to be not too bad! You can try increasing the quantity the next time round!”

A ball of milky white light emitted from Leylin's hand, as it scanned across the many confining spirit spheres on the table, before Leylin gave a smile of satisfaction.

“Alright! I will bring these with me then. I will bring your medicine back at the earliest period of 10 days to latest 15 days!” Leylin made his promise.

“I would naturally believe you, after all we are under the constraints of the Trial's Eye and signed an unbreakable pledge...” Though the old witch looked as though she trusted Leylin, Leylin still felt the mistrust in her heart.

However, this was not an unusual situation.

After this deal was successful, her amount of distrust will drop tremendously and the connection with benefits between both parties would also be closer.

After leaving the old witch's small inn, Leylin hurriedly headed back to his villa.

It had been a while since his spiritual force had a great increase, so now he couldn't wait to attempt and brew the Tears of Mary, once again enjoying that delight of experiencing a huge boost in the spiritual force.

After activating the entire defense formation, Leylin went to the room at the ground floor of the villa by himself.

This place had undergone remodelling and things were now in order. At the lowest level was an area for experimenting with spells, which had absorption runes for reinforcement at the four corners.

As for the secret room situated at a corner, it had already underwent a special reformation to become a Potioneering lab, and contained all of the various high grade apparatus.

Clearly, for these things to be obtainable, Leylin had used his relationship with the old witch, with the resources he had seized to purchase and exchange for them.

Otherwise, with his current financial resources, even if he were to brew potions every day, it would take him more than 2 years to purchase all of the apparatuses.

After all, he could not possibly use all his magic crystals for building his laboratory as he would need some for his daily expenses and other necessities.

And from the previous time, with the haul from the plunder, the laboratory was built from scratch.

“A.I. Chip!” Leylin made a command in his heart.

[Beginning brewing of the Tears of Mary! Obtaining administrative rights from the Host to monitor the whole process and make informed reminders. Beginning to coordinate with Host’s spiritual force energy waves...]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

.....

“Let’s begin!” Leylin took a deep breath and picked up a confining spirit sphere which had a spirit sealed within in.

In the blink of an eye, it was the dawn of the second day.

Leylin gasped for air and sweat dripped down his face continuously. However, his vigour was brimming with energy as he smiled and fixed his eyes on the transparent liquid he held in his hand.

The test-tube was made from nitrogen crystal glass and was extremely strong. It even had the effect of extending the expiry of the medicinal properties. Hence they were always stored by Magi and only used for important potions.

Looking at the crystal clear and transparent potion, a look of dejection appeared on Leylin’s face.

Thinking back, it had been 3 to 4 years since he took the potion formula from his mentor, Kroft.

He managed to brew a dose for the Azure Potion soon after it was given to him, yet there was no progress in brewing the Tears of Mary. He only managed to simplify some of the processes and brew the Blood Vengeance Potion. However, it was only useful for acolytes.

Right now, he held this potion which was a final product completely based on the ancient formula! It had a tremendous effect even in breaking through the spiritual force bottlenecks of ancient Magi.

“Besides, the success rate is not too bad!”

Leylin looked at the 3 broken confining spirit sphere on the floor, and his face revealed a pleased look.

In the final stage of the brewing process, he specially added a few steps which required the use of the A.I. Chip. It was not only successful in the restoration of the formula, but also increased the rate of success in brewing. Surprisingly, the success rate hit an astonishing 30 to 40%!

In other words, the 16 confining spirit spheres he received from the old witch could be used to configure 5-6 portions of this finished product.

This discovery made Leylin feel extremely happy.

After all, the origin of the ingredients of these potion were extremely savage, and it was not easy to obtain. Hence, he wanted to increase the success rate.

Due to the restraints from the Trial's Eye, he had to abide by the agreement and give forty percent of it to the old witch.

Although this percentage was rather high, Leylin considered them to be worth it.

The old witch was also under the restraints of the Trial's Eye. Once she was caught, she could not reveal any news of Leylin at all, hence he would be absolved from all risks.

“A.I. Chip, what is the result of the analysis of the medicinal properties

of this potion?”

Leylin looked at the test-tube in his hands and suddenly asked.

[Beep! It has been completed, the medicinal properties has been recorded and stored in the data bank.] [Ancient potion – Tears of Mary. Original ingredients: Powerful spirits filled with grievances and despair. Effect: Great increase for an official Magus’s spiritual force, and a chance to helping a Magus breaking through a bottleneck.]

The A.I. Chip’s analysis was extremely concrete. And the last few words it uttered, led Leylin into deep thoughts.

In the Magus World, potions which could directly increase the spiritual force was extremely exorbitant.

Just like the exchange point in the Four Seasons Garden, the prices of several potions which could increase the spiritual force was even above that for the crystallised elemental energy particles.

Compared the spiritual force potions, potions which could aid a Magus in breaking through the bottleneck was even a tier higher.

Even though the chance of Tears of Mary which could aid the breakthrough was extremely little, it would cause Magi to go crazy after it.

“It seems like this effect has to be concealed. Since I already have a contract with Old Devil, she would not be able to reveal any news of the potions to outsiders, so I can rest my worry for the time being...”

Leylin withdrew a golden watch that was decorated with diamonds.

“It’s still early now, and I have an appointment for lunch with Crew only in the afternoon. I can even try the effect of the potion now!”

Leylin took the transparent dose of potion and went into the spell testing area below the experiment lab and sat in a cross-legged position.

“Activate!”

Leylin chanted an incantation. Soon after, the nitrogen glass test-tube seem to open like a flower engraving, revealing the potion liquid within.

A rather bland and sweet smell which seemed to be able to induce sleep and hypnosis began to envelop the room.

.....

Under the effect of this fragrance, Leylin entered the meditative state in an instant...

While doing his meditation, Leylin felt as if his spirit had calmed down and floated on the clouds, enveloping the sun. This extremely harmonious and serene feeling flowed through his thoughts.

“What a pleasant experience!” Leylin opened his eyes after an unknown period of time.

Meditation was a physically taxing activity for Magi, and many would often choose to enter a deep sleep right after. This was to make up for the consumption of vitality during the process.

This effect would be even more apparent when a meditation technique was of a higher grade.

Compared to before, even if Leylin’s vitality was 8.5, after the meditation of the Kemoyin’s Pupil every day, he would feel extremely exhausted and could not wait to fall asleep immediately.

As for today, after a round of meditation technique, he felt extremely comfortable in every part of his body. His spiritual force was extremely robust, and his condition in a state that was difficult to enter again.

This was an indescribable feeling, as if ripping off a layer of the nature, everything to his senses was extremely distinct. It also felt like someone who always had been in darkness suddenly seeing the light.

“This feeling is just awesome!”

Leylin grinned.

At this moment, he realised two warm streaks of moisture flowed down his face.

“These are... tears!”

“With the current control of my physical body and the help of the A.I. Chip, I actually teared unknowingly...” A look of admiration appeared on Leylin’s face, “The effects of these ancient potions has far surpassed my expectations!”

Only at this moment did he consider to check his stats.

During the meditation, the A.I. Chip showed a stream of data, but Leylin was able to look at this data only now.

[Ancient potion – Tears of Mary assimilation in progress!] [Due to the effects of the potion, quality of meditation increases, spiritual force increased by 0.5] [Due to the effects of the potion, quality of meditation increases, spiritual force increased by 1.0] [Ancient potion – Tears of Mary reaching threshold, Host’s spiritual force greatly increasing...] [Kemoyin’s Pupil’s meditation technique completed, huge boost in Host’s spiritual force, recalculating data...]

After which, the A.I. Chip reloaded Leylin’s statistics.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 36.8, Magic Power: 36 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 35%. Status: Healthy]

“7 points! One portion of Tears of Mary actually directly increased my spiritual force by 7 points!”

Leylin could not conceal the excitement on his face.

“That means that even if my body develops a resistance to the potion in the future, I can still quickly increase my spiritual force so that it meets the requirements to break through to a rank 2 Magus?”

“Also, I can use the crystallised Darkness energy particles that I’ve been collecting again!”

The stats of a Magus were all intercorrelated.

Previously, Leylin’s spiritual force and concentration of bloodline was enough, yet the elemental essence conversion was lacking. Hence he could

use the Darkness crystals to fill in the gap and achieve a 35% elemental essence conversion. However, after that time, Leylin's elemental essence conversion was enough, but his spiritual force was lacking instead. Hence, according to the A.I. Chip's estimations, before his spiritual force reaches certain value, using the crystallised Darkness energy particles would render no effect.

Hence, the 500g of crystallised Darkness energy particles he took from the old witch previously, with the amount he exchanged at the Four Seasons Garden had been kept aside by him.

Chapter 170: Princess of a Vanquished Nation

Noon came shortly after, and Leylin took a shower with a happy mood. He donned a set of comfortable white robes and went to Crew's villa.

"Welcome, Leylin! My dearest friend!"

Crew gave Leylin a hug, looking somewhat bewildered.

"Your aura seemed to have increased again, it really makes people envious!"

Previously, he had already been astonished by Leylin's age and potential. Towards a Magus who had such unlimited potential, establishing connections beforehand would often reap unexpected benefits.

However, Leylin's rate of improvement far exceeded his expectations.

"This is just the result of a successful experiment!" Leylin gave a modest laugh.

In truth, this was the result after Leylin had used concealment spell to hide most of his spiritual force. If not, with Crew's intelligence, he would definitely be able to guess at something.

Crew did not buy Leylin's humble words, but the aspect of spiritual force was always among the most guarded secrets of Magi, so any prying would result in hostility.

Hence, Crew could only amicably smile and hold Leylin's hand.

"Let's not talk about this anymore. Come, let us go to the slave market!"

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The slave market was in Zone 4 of the Nightless City and took up a very large area. Moreover, it was overt, even having a signboard.

"Lord! Come to us, we have various types of slaves. There are even two snake girls from eastern mountain deserts, and their skills are top notch, you know!"

“Lord! Look over here, beautiful rabbit girls, fiery fox tribes. There are also beauties from the cannes tribe, with incredible strength comparable to Grand Knights. They are extremely good looking and long lasting. Moreover, they only cost 800 magic crystals each...”

“Look here quickly, this is the princess of the Dirk Dukedom! Her bloodline is extremely royal. The Dirk Dukedom is a dukedom comparable to kingdoms. There were many shops in this slave market, hence, to attract people over to their stores, these shops had all kinds of gimmicks.

Leylin walked alongside Crew as he listened to the various calls of the shop owners.

The provocative rabbit girls and fox girls revealed a large amount of skin, only having on a few pieces of clothing the size of a palm to cover their private parts. Their fluffy white rabbit tails and fiery red fox tails were bunched together. It was an extremely sharp contrast to the shy expressions of those rabbit and fox girls.

“How is it, sir? Do you want to take a look at this princess’ figure?”

Crew was obviously interested in the slave that was referred to as a princess. He made a stop in front of that shop.

Leylin was judging the girl behind the shop owner. She was tall, her pupils were golden, and she emanated an extremely noble aura. This was something that definitely could not be imitated, and had to have been developed from a young age.

This beautiful young lady was wearing a gown that one would usually see at a palace banquet, and she was even wearing a diamond-encrusted tiara, as if she was a princess who had ran out to play—that is, if you didn’t consider the blank and resigned expression on her face.

“She’s quite a beauty!” A look of desire appeared on Crew’s face. “Now that I think about it, even though I’ve played with tons of women, I don’t think I’ve ever trained a princess before!”

“This is definitely a genuine princess. Her father was the former Duke!”

The shop owner was extremely eager to market his goods. “Moreover,

this woman has not suffered any violations of the body, and is a complete virgin...”

“Dirk Dukedom, I seem to have heard of its past. A coup d’etat occurred, right?” Crew stroked his chin and pondered. “It better not have any leftover troubles!”

“No way, no way! The previous duke wanted to control his own forces, and broke all ties with magicians. He had already been forsaken by the Magus family backing him, and in reality, this coup d’etat was orchestrated by that Magus family...”

The shop owner explained to Crew in detail.

Leylin noticed that after that princess heard of the events, her head was bowed. Fear and hatred began to show on her face.

Although this expression lasted for but a moment and was concealed well by her, how could it have been missed by the magicians present?

“Not bad! Does she have a fierce personality? Challenging... I like her.” Crew was immediately aroused by her, and asked, “Tell me directly! How much?”

“Two thousand magic crystals! That’s the lowest price I can give you!” The shop owner answered confidently.

“Two thousand magic crystals!!!” Crew’s eyes bulged. “Just for a regular human who isn’t even a knight? Do you think I was kicked in the head by a donkey as a child?”

“This is a unique situation! I only managed to get this princess at a great cost, and you can only find her in this shop in the Nightless City! Other princesses all have Magus families backing them, and goods like this are only available now. Whether you’ll be able to get your hands on someone like her in the future will depend on your luck...”

The shop owner expended a huge effort on convincing him.

“Two thousand magic crystals is much too expensive! It’s enough to fund a few of my large-scale experiments!” Crew helplessly shook his

head.

He turned to Leylin. "Sorry for the wait. Let's go!"

Leylin shrugged and ignored that princess of a ruined dukedom, walking out of the shop alongside Crew.

"I was sure that you would insist on buying her, but now..." Leylin was somewhat shocked. He had seen firsthand Crew's pervertedness and fetishes, so he could not believe that Crew would give up this easily.

"You don't know..." Crew blinked, his face revealing a smirk and a clever look.

"This slave's price tag is too expensive. As long as they're not magicians who are desperately in need, she will never be considered by anyone." The old geezer explained to Leylin.

Official Magi always required resources. Unlike Crew, who had no more hope of advancing anymore, was extremely lecherous, and only wanted to live in retirement, they would never have any interest in such kinds of slaves.

"I have several ties with the magicians in this kind of circle. As long as I notify them, nobody would snatch her from me!"

"Hehe... By then, this shop owner will only be able to hold this stock in his hands. Later, when I look for him again, I will be the only one to whom he can sell the slave. I am confident that I can haggle the price down to a thousand magic crystals or below..."

"Then what reason have you prepared to convince your friends?" Leylin asked in curiosity.

"Hehe... Of course, such a collaboration to push down prices would be done in turns!" The old geezer did not hesitate to reply.

"If you have any interest in her, then after I'm done with her, I can lend her to you to toy around with for a few days!"

The old geezer seemed extremely generous at this moment.

"No one can surpass your skills in such an area..." Leylin felt as if he was

utterly defeated, and no longer knew what to say.

After which, Leylin, who had been following Crew, finally approached a shop that seemed slightly strange.

This shop was obviously a lot larger than the surrounding shops, and there were also two green, magically summoned creatures standing guard. Just by the presence and the construction costs of this shop, the value of the other shops were immediately lessened.

In addition, there was a thick curtain draped in front of the door, and one could not see anything inside unless they lifted the fabric. This heightened the curiosity of the Magi.

“We’re here! This is the slave market that my friend opened!” Crew gave a series of passwords in a practised manner, and received permission to pass from the two magically summoned creatures.

“This is only open to members, and members can only bring one regular customer. The requirements are stringent, but it’s only at this sort of place that you’ll be able to get lots of great goods!”

Crew obviously had a mountain of experience, and he brought Leylin into an office.

“Lucia, my friend! I have brought you business!”

What exceeded Leylin’s expectations was that this slave trader Lucia was, in fact, a female magician.

She wore robes with a high collar, yet a small heart shape was cut out at her bosom area, revealing deep cleavage.

“Crew! Have you grown sick of the snake girl from before?”

Lucia bowed at her slender waist and greeted Crew, quickly retreating back.

Looking at Crew, who wanted to take some liberties with Lucia, but was also embarrassed, Leylin rubbed his nose in shame.

He had a feeling that he could have been ripped off by this lecherous old geezer.

“Is this the customer that you have brought?”

Lucia gave a slow smile as she advanced, and Leylin’s nose was filled with a very concentrated smell of perfume. While strong, it did not repulse him, but was rather like a strong drink that made men brim with the desire to explore further.

“What a handsome fellow!”

Lucia chuckled and gave Leylin a tight hug, her two large, satiny lumps of softness pressing directly against Leylin’s chest, and giving rise to a passion within.

“Young Magus, what kind of slave are you looking for? Fox girls, rabbit girls, or snake girls? Sister has everything here, and can even give you a discount!”

The beautiful slave owner with a provocative figure blew against Leylin’s ear as she whispered in a low voice.

“This... I apologise!”

Leylin gently pushed Lucia away, causing Crew to roll his eyes at him and Lucia to coquettishly laugh. “Oh my! Looks like our customer got embarrassed!”

“It is really your hospitality that makes it hard to breathe!” Leylin bowed and kissed Lucia on the back of her slender and pale palm, before receiving a jealous look from Crew.

It was not that he could not contain his urges, but that this beautiful slave trader was also a rank 1 Magus! Moreover, according the A.I. Chip’s detection, her elemental essence conversion was at least 50%!

Although Leylin was rather aroused, he did not want to have a knife stabbed in his back while bedding this woman. Moreover, how could a female slave trader be a simple character!

“Actually, my reason for coming here is to purchase a few special slaves!” Leylin made his request.

Once the official matter was raised, Lucia put on a serious face.

Chapter 171: Magician Slaves

“No problem, we have the largest warehouse. As long as you make a request, we’ll immediately find a compatible slave for you!”

Lucia stated with confidence.

“Also, even if we don’t have it here, as long as you pay enough deposit, we can even organise a team to catch slaves and train them and teach them, customising them to your needs...”

Such a business model and industrialised chain of processes, also the special service provided for esteemed guests led Leylin to recall the VIP statuses back in his previous world.

“No need for that, my requirements are extremely simple!”

Leylin smiled, “First of all, it’s 5 slaves with the strength of Grand Knights. The race is to be humans, gender is unimportant. I need those with intact intelligence with no obvious flaw or damage on their bodies...”

He did lack a few workers in his villa to do odd jobs and maintain his image.

Furthermore, it was impossible for Leylin to take care of all miscellaneous tasks by himself.

Deep inside Leylin’s heart, he also had another plan. He had received one portion of resources for the Branded Swordsman from his trade with Dorotte. Even though it was incomplete and virtually impossible to break through with those materials, with the A.I. Chip’s deduction and Leylin’s own experiments, he had also garnered some results.

At the moment, he was thinking of trying out the fruits of his labour on a Grand Knight.

These Grand Knight slaves would definitely have spirit seeds planted or some form of branding that would ensure they were 100% loyal. Their bodies were extremely strong as well and were the best people to experiment on to become Branded Swordsmen.

“We have five Grand Knights here, you may pick them later. Each one will cost 700 magic crystals. Moreover, your big sister I will give you a discount. Amongst the 5 Grand Knights, there would be two beauties!”

Lucia smiled. “I believe that apart from their duty as guards, they will definitely fulfill the other ‘duties’ as well!”

For Magi whose vitality surpasses that of normal humans, normal girls would not be able to satisfy their needs. Hence, cultivating some Knights and Grand Knights as maidservants was a common practice. Hence Lucia did not lack any goods in this aspect.

Towards such a benefit, Leylin only nodded his head, not feeling anything special.

The Grand Knights were only a small matter. Leylin immediately stated his true purpose of coming here.

“And then, I require an acolyte grade slave, it’s best if the strength is of a level 3 acolyte! Also, they have to know simple Potioneering and alchemy!”

At this point, Lucia no longer had a relaxed expression. Even Crew looked at Leylin in surprise.

In the Magus World, there were many tiers for slaves. Maidservants who have been nurtured, princesses or female nobles whose countries have been destroyed only belonged to the lowest tier of entertainment and consumption. Apart from the special cases of princesses and the likes, their prices were all extremely low.

Further up, it would be the level of Knights and Grand Knights who could be of use to their owners. The increase in expenditure was not small. If they also wanted slaves from different races of a beautiful slave, the prices would often be taken up another notch.

However, none of them could be considered high-grade slaves.

In the south coast, there was only one type of slave that was considered to be high-grade. They were the magician slaves!

Whether regular humans or knights or Grand Knights, their bodies were

unable to resist the energy pollution that Magi unwittingly emitted. In addition, they did not have any spiritual force to defend their Magus masters, nor help out with spell formations and the like.

Hence, upon advancing to an official Magus, many would usually recruit a few acolytes to assist them in their own experiments.

However, on the south coast, some things still had to be adhered to. Even if one was in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the mentors could not use the acolytes as their guinea pigs and experiment on them as they wished, and had to tempt them with magic crystals or swindle them into a contract.

Rather than using the pampered acolytes, using slaves could solve this problem entirely.

Due to the existence of a spirit brand, slaves were typically loyal to a fault. In addition, the moment that a master buys them, their lives would immediately belong to their master's. No matter how the Magi experimented on the slaves, they would not cause any trouble!

“Handsome fellow, you’re quite gutsy!”

Lucia seemed quite bewildered as she looked at Leylin. “Level 3 acolytes aren’t that cheap!”

“Does that mean you have them?”

Leylin picked at his eyebrow.

The origin of magicians slaves was quite simple. They were either wanted criminals or captives after a war.

In addition, their existence was not the most welcome, and even in Poolfield Kingdom’s Ellinel Market, Leylin did not see any shop that dared to publicly sell acolyte slaves.

Leylin had only asked without expecting for there to be any results and had met with an unexpected surprise.

Nightless City was the entire South Coast’s main trading centre! To think that it was possible to find high-grade slaves in a random slave

shop!

“Don’t worry. As long as you can find someone, the price isn’t an issue!”

Leylin threw a black pouch to Lucia.

“I didn’t think a little guy like you has magic crystals!” Lucia checked the contents of the pouch and nodded, immediately ringing a red hand-bell on the table.

Ding-ling-ling!

With the ring of the bell, a maidservant pushed open the door, “My Lady! Do you have any orders?”

“Go bring Damien here!” In front of her servants, Lucia put on a frosty expression with no traces of smiles. Her every movement was filled with a domineering aura.

As for this maidservant, she did not even dare raise her head in front of Lucia’s orders and hurriedly led the room.

“Come! First, have a taste of this ‘chugu’! This is a special product from the Sicily Islands!”

After the door was shut, Lucia resumed her enchanting demeanour and brought out a fiery red flask, pouring a drink that seemed to be a mix between coffee and chocolate, for Leylin and Crew.

Leylin took a sip and the mellow yet invigorating taste swirled in his throat.

“The taste is excellent! It’s rather similar to the Coco Fruit. Moreover, it had the effect of increasing vigour. If it can be popularised, it will definitely gain the attention of Magi!”

Leylin said indifferently.

“Lucia! You’re too much, how could you not give me several flasks of such great stuff!” Crew began to raise his loud.

“Young brother you have the foresight. I am preparing to open a new shop and promote this drink item as my brand item...” Lucia looked at

Leylin in surprise, before smiling in an enchanting manner. “How about this, do you want to invest in this as well?”

“My apologies, I don’t have enough magic crystals. Especially after this round of purchasing slaves, I’m afraid I’d have to amass another fortune before considering such an investment...”

Leylin naturally refused such a suggestion.

As for Lucia, there was no disappointment on her face; it only seemed that she had asked on the spur of the moment.

“Lucia, why don’t you consider me?” Crew put on an eager expression.

“You?” Lucia looked at Crew with disdain, “A fellow who only knows how to throw magic crystals on women, I have no faith in you at all. 27 years ago, it was you who took my investment and...”

After Lucia talked about past events, Crew’s face reddened, and he kept his head down like a small boy who had done something wrong.

As for Leylin, he only cared about sipping his drink, pretending not to see or hear anything.

“My Lady! May I come in?”

This atmosphere was quickly broken by a request to enter the room.

“Is it Damien? Come in!” Lucia smoothed her hair and sat behind her desk once more.

Creak! The door to the office opened, and a silver-haired level 3 acolyte entered.

This acolyte was not young, and his face was wrinkled like the skin of a tangerine. In contrast, his clothes were neat and tidy, and not a single hair was out of place. He seemed to be in good spirits, looking nothing like a slave.

“Damien! This is Magus Leylin, and he has expressed his desire to buy you. Now, he’ll ask you some questions.” Lucia pointed to Leylin, who was seated on a sofa at the side, and introduced Damien to him.

“It is my honour to meet you, my lord! I hope I am able to service you in the future!” Damien bowed respectfully.

“You don’t have to be so polite! I hope you’ll meet my requirements too!” Leylin looked undisturbed.

“In that case, if you blend the liquefied form of a Sun Flower and the stem of a Three Night Flower, what will happen?” Leylin asked a question related to Potioneering without any second thoughts.

“There will be a substitution reflect, and it will produce...” From the looks of it, this old geezer called Damien did have some attainments in Potioneering. He only needed to think for a short while, before fluently answering.

Next, Leylin asked a series of other questions.

At the beginning, Damien’s expression was relaxed, but as they got further along, cold sweat started to form on his back.

A little over ten minutes later, Leylin stood up, feeling satisfied, and told Lucia, “I want him. How many magic crystals?”

Through the little test that he had just conducted, Leylin concluded that Damien’s attainments in Potioneering and alchemy were definitely considered pretty good amongst acolytes who were in the same tier as him. It would definitely be worth it to buy him.

“16500 magic crystals!” Lucia smiled, “Adding on to those 5 Grand Knights, it amounts perfectly to 20000 magic crystals!”

“No way, this is too expensive! His age is already so high. Normally, acolytes only have a maximum lifespan of 150 years...”

As for Damien, he stood there quietly by the side, as if the person they were haggling over was not him.

After Leylin left Lucia’s store with Crew, 6 more figures followed behind them.

There was Damien, and the other 5 Grand Knights. Amongst the Grand Knights, there were two good looking girls with sexy figures, who also

didn't have any bulging muscles that destroyed their aesthetic beauty.

Chapter 172: One Year

After fiercely negotiating the price, Leylin finally cut the price down to eighteen thousand magic crystals and bought the slaves.

Furthermore, right in front of Lucia within the shop, Leylin used his own spirit brand and branded the six slaves' minds.

That meant from thereon, the fates of these slaves were all grasped within Leylin's palm.

Also, the nature of the soul brand was such that they had to be completely obedient to Leylin. Even if they were asked to kill themselves, they had to do so without a moment's thought!

One could go so far as to say that if Leylin felt a sudden urge, these slaves' brains could simply explode like a watermelon.

"Haha... I'll stop bothering you and be on my way then!"

Once they were on the street of their villas, Crew silently judged the two gorgeous female Knights behind Leylin with a mischievous twinkling in his eyes as they returned to their respective homes.

"That old geezer!" Leylin was speechless as he shook his head, before bringing the six slaves into his villa.

"This is my villa. You'll be staying here from hereon, and you can choose your rooms in the back. Nobody is allowed into my bedroom and the basement! Understood?"

Leylin turned and swept his eyes over his six newly-bought slaves as he ordered.

"Understood, master!" The six of them split up and left.

"Damien, you stay behind!" Leylin stopped the level 3 acolyte.

"Master, do you have any more orders for me?" Damien questioned respectfully.

"From today onwards, you are the butler of this villa and will be in charge of managing this place when I'm not around. Also, regarding the

villa's defense spell formation, I'll give you the authority to modify it. Your task is to tidy up the entire villa, and stock up on items needed for everyday use..."

Leylin began to give a series of instructions.

In a trading centre such as Nightless City where the Magi were in charge, there were many things that only a Magi could do. A typical Knight or Grand Knight didn't have a sea of consciousness, so how could they even control their spiritual force, chant incantations and the like?

In order to maintain the operation of his villa even after Leylin left, an acolyte-level butler was indispensable.

"Also, tell me how you became a slave." Leylin was slightly curious.

At the mention of this, Damien's expression darkened and he trembled, a look of suffering appearing on his face.

It was clear that his past was an extremely painful experience for him.

However, due to the control of the soul brand, he still had to adhere to Leylin's command. "I was from the Steel Fort and was born in a regular little town. I was fortunate enough to be tested to have an affinity for magic and was accepted by my mentor into the Moonlight Shadow. Master may not have heard of it, as it is but a small Magi organisation. Even though I had to allow my mentor to experiment on my body, I was still lucky enough to survive and even became a level three acolyte..."

Until this point, Damien's expression was still normal, but a traumatised look emerged on his face.

"Right after that was... the war! That darned war! As the powers lording over our district, the Wetland Gardens Academy began to support the expansion of other small organisations just because our leader was against them. Moonlight Shadow was conveniently used in the war, and my mentor, as well as many other seniors, died in battle. I was held captive and eventually became a slave..."

Leylin nodded in agreement. In the unwritten rules of the Magus World, Magi were typically not allowed to hold acolytes captive and use them as

slaves, or else there would be no order in society.

But there was one situation where the Magi was evidently not protected by any laws or agreements – it was when they were the prisoners of war!

The prisoners of war and sub-human acolytes from established academies were the chief sources of magician slaves!

Leylin watched Damien, who was somewhat indignant and sorrowful, and suddenly felt a surge of fear.

At the beginning, if not for Abyssal Bone Forest Academy warding off the attack from the enemies, he wouldn't be able to escape at all and his fate might have been to be killed by an official Magus or captured as a prisoner, and later be sold off as a slave.

“That's why I'm so desperate for power! Only by possessing strength can I take control of my future!”

Leylin waved Damien away with a gesture of his hand.

“Familiarise yourself with the surroundings first. I want to go out and will only be back in the evening.”

.....

The villa that Leylin was renting was extremely spacious, and there were rooms specifically meant for the servants to live in. Having six slaves moving in wasn't crowded at all, and on the contrary, added a bit of life into the villa.

Damien revealed his abilities as an exceptional butler and kept Leylin's villa neat and tidy. This allowed Leylin to relax and discard thoughts about odd jobs that needed to be done around the villa, and focus on brewing the ancient potion, Tears of Mary, in the basement.

Countless days later, Leylin went to the old witch's shop alone and passed on to her the two portions of Tears of Mary that she was entitled to, based on their contract. They also set a timing for their next transaction.

After obtaining the ancient potions, no matter how hard the old witch

tried to conceal her excitement, Leylin was still able to see her become feverish with elation.

She also stated that she was more than capable of handling even more spirits and that Leylin should prepare himself for that.

From the looks of it, in order to obtain more of these precious potions, she was willing to gather and prepare the ingredients at all costs.

Leylin was quite pleased with this temporary ally of his.

Though he didn't know the reason why she needed the potions so urgently, this was a situation that benefited him too.

After the two of them came to a consensus, Leylin returned to the villa and took care of all the matters in the villa. He then proceeded to the outside of the city and returned to Four Seasons Garden's headquarters on a Dragon Crown Nighthawk.

After joining Four Seasons Garden, besides the allocated amount that all Magi were entitled to, the great amount of resources in the library was something he something he coveted.

However, as a member of the organisation, he obviously was unable to stay in Nightless City all day long unless he was retired.

The missions this month were simple and could be completed in a few days, which gave him a lot of free time that he decided to spend in Nightless City.

At the moment, he had to return to Four Seasons Garden and take on the monthly tasks. Unless he wanted to renounce the portions he was allocated and the little power he had, he had to follow this sort of lifestyle.

If he were a typical Magus and were to use this way of life to slowly amass enough knowledge and resources for him to break through, it would take more than a hundred years!

But Leylin was different. Not only did he possess a high-grade meditation method, he was also extremely knowledgeable about the path one would need to take to become a rank 3 Magus. In addition, he had

also stocked up and done preparations to ensure he had the best materials and ingredients!

In order to gain power and wealth, one needed to come up with alternative methods that might be frowned upon by others. He had never been a principled person.

Leylin had two main sources providing him with materials. One of them was the Four Seasons Garden, and even though the portion allocated by them was meagre, it still was a constant flow and the items were gained based on merit.

The other source was the dark Magi organisation he had recently joined. While it was slightly dangerous, the profits were plentiful.

With these two sources, one from an honest organisation and the other from an unscrupulous group, the rate at which he gathered his resources and increased his strength was far from what anyone could predict.

“Next, I’ll have to lay low, gather all my resources, and wait for the second transition of my bloodline.”

Leylin had planned everything for the next few years well ahead.

The current him was just like the Dragon Crown Nighthawk he was sitting on – before it flew, it would silently save its energy, anticipating a time in the future when it could soar through the skies!

.....

Time flew by quickly, and in the blink of an eye, one year had passed.

The mountain that was the Four Seasons Garden’s headquarters was still standing strong and proud as always. Magi travelled through the passages within the mountain, looking like ants as they travelled around.

“Leylin! The theory of the ecology that you tested in the secret plane aroused my interest. How about it? Shall we have a discussion about it?”

At the moment, in a room for rest and relaxation, a male Magus with fire-red hair was speaking with Leylin.

“Of course! I also hold an interest in the experiences and thoughts

Magus Truman had while taking care of the Lava Goldfish.”

Leylin looked about the same as he did a year before, the main difference being the blackness in his eyes that seemed to have another layer of depth to them.

“I was planning to take a trip to the library anyway. We can talk there!” Leylin invited Magus Truman.

“But of course! I’m very familiar with your reputation as the child of the library,” Truman teased.

In answer, Leylin merely gave a light chuckle and did not take his comment to heart.

In the span of this one year, he had been lying low most of the time, completing his missions without complaints and receiving his allocated resources every month, mostly living in seclusion.

The place where he spent the most time in was the Four Seasons Garden’s giant library.

The Four Seasons Garden was on a much larger scale than Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and the records and resources in the library were abundant.

In addition, with Leylin’s status as an official Magus, he had access to much more materials than what acolytes could get their hands on.

Though some high-grade knowledge and potion formulas needed to be exchanged for using the specified amount of contribution points, the resources that the Four Seasons Garden provided free of charge was extremely helpful for Leylin.

He spent about half a year gathering the information he had access to and saving them into the A.I. Chip, thereby largely enriching its database.

In order to prevent others from noticing the strangeness in his actions, Leylin would sometimes spend time in the library despite having saved all the information that was in there. For this pretense, he had rejected the invitations of countless beautiful female Magi. That had gained him

several nicknames that were along the lines of ‘the insensitive wooden block’ and ‘the child of the library’ which quickly spread.

The Four Seasons Garden’s library was constructed within a huge hill, and acolytes could often be seen entering it.

As official Magi, Leylin and Truman naturally received special treatment and received an isolated room in order to facilitate their discussion. There was also a soft sofa and multi-coloured snacks within the room.

Chapter 173: The Venom Wyvern

“The theory of ecosystems has long since existed. For example, many Magi find that growing wild grasses alongside Tortoise-Backed Mountain Grass will increase the yields of both by 30%!”

Leylin sat on the sofa and began to articulate upon his theories.

“All I did was expand on this ring of connection. Adding multiple factors, it would proliferate to tens or even hundreds of species, forming a large ecosystem and increasing the outputs of various resources inside the secret plane...”

Truman’s eyes seemed to be giving off light. “What a novel theory! Being able to choose the most compatible ecosystem for the millions of resources in the natural world – I admire your knowledge and background in this area!”

Leylin just gave a faint smile. He was obviously unable to analyse that much data on his own, so the A.I. Chip did most of the work.

The research that he had made public was only on a superficial level.

He was prepared to employ the many key experiments and procedures in his very own secret plane in the future and was unwilling to help Four Seasons Garden increase their output for free. After all, he was no do-gooder.

“However, I am also curious about the Lava Goldfish that you’re rearing, Truman.” Leylin remarked with an anticipatory look in his eyes.

Lava Goldfishes were a unique species in the Magus World. Usually, they thrived in lava, which made them extremely difficult to breed.

As for their fish scales, they were necessary ingredients for many alchemy procedures. The blubber and flesh were a kind of nourishment which could recover a Magus’ energy and enable them to be revitalised after a weary meditation session. Hence, it was highly sought after with an extremely high price.

“Actually, it’s no big deal. These Lava Goldfishes’ habits are very

predictable. Once you understand them, then you can make a relevant section inside the secret plane...”

Of course, Truman only briefly stated the methods.

“I hope to use this information of breeding the Lava Goldfishes to exchange for your theory of ecosystem. Moreover, as the value of your information is above mine, I am willing to top up 5000 more magic crystals!”

Truman made a sincere request.

“It’s no problem at all!” Leylin nodded and smiled. The purpose of releasing this information was to exchange it for resources and knowledge with other magicians.

After a year of hard work, he had finally managed to grasp the general methods in operating a secret plane. Apart from that, he also learned about some of the habitats that the most expensive plants needed to thrive in. If he was given a secret plane to govern now, it would definitely not be in deficit, and actually, make profits.

Although Leylin was a dark Magus and participated in plundering operations that the organisation he was in arranged, he never excluded the possibilities of extracting more magic crystals using a light Magus’ methods.

“Speaking of which, Leylin, you’re done with your missions for the month. Do you have any plans? I have a good friend whose experiment requires a high levelled Potions Master, so if you were to go...”

Truman sent Leylin an invitation.

Apart from their duties inside Four Seasons Garden, many magicians often had a part time job through their connections in the organisation, earning additional magic crystals and resources.

Of course, some did it purely as their interest or hobby, or merely just to help a friend out.

“My apologies! The mission for this month was extremely taxing. I wish

to take this well-deserved break to recuperate in Nightless City!”

Leylin rejected Truman’s invitation tactfully.

Right now, he no longer prioritised these tiny organization’s resources or connections. Moreover, he was in the crucial period of boosting his prowess, so he did not have that much time to bother about other trivial matters.

“That’s really regretful...” Truman’s face reflected the disappointment that he felt. Only after exchanging several more words with Leylin and their specialised information did they separate.

“Lord Leylin!”

After parting with Truman, Leylin went to the landing pad of the Four Seasons Garden. The acolytes here all recognised Leylin and they bowed to greet him.

“How is Hawke’s current condition?”

Leylin walked to a cage with a giant creature within it. A pair of large red eyes stared back at him. The beast opened its jaws and revealed rows of razor sharp fangs that resembled swords, with a crimson tongue that had reverse scales.

“Lord, your mount’s appetite is great. Yesterday, it had even eaten a whole red bread pig. Its temper was rather nasty, though this could be due to it being caged for a long period of time...”

The acolyte who was in charge of these mounts was obviously skilled in his work. He was also extremely diligent as he replied Leylin.

Creak!

A scarlet rune appeared on Leylin’s finger, forming the shape of a key and entering the keyhole of the metal cage.

“Roar!”

With an impressive roar, a green wyvern charged out of the cage.

This creature had sharp talons and claws, and its whole body was

covered in murky green scales. On its back was also a pair of large green wings. The membrane of the wings shone with a green lustre under the light.

[Venom Wyvern. Strength: 13.5, Agility: 19.8, Vitality: 11.2, Spiritual Force: 9.8. Special abilities: 1. Acidic breath: A corrosive poison will be spat on the mouth, with an area of effect of 20 metres. Average power: 16 degrees. 2. Toxic Rip: The Venom Wyvern's claws and fangs have toxic properties, with a huge numbing effect on the spiritual force.]

The Venom Wyvern's stats were displayed by Leylin's A.I. Chip.

"Rawrrr!"

The gigantic Venom Wyvern continued to roar. At the same time, there was a fawning look in its eyes that was incredibly humane as it lowered its head and rubbed gently against Leylin's body.

"Alright! Alright! I will give you an upsize for your meals when I get back!"

Leylin could not help but laugh as he rubbed this Venom Wyvern which had the mentality of a puppy missing its owner.

"Hawke, bring me to Nightless City now!"

Leylin got onto the back of the Venom Wyvern in one leap.

"Rawrr!" The Venom Wyvern snarled and the wings on its back jolted, unfolding segment by segment until they were fully extended, and were at least three times larger than its body.

With a fierce hurricane, the Venom Wyvern spread its wings and swooped into the air.

"Hah... They're finally gone. Just having that Venom Wyvern standing here is enough to make me feel uncomfortable," a female acolyte who was feeding a Dragon Crown Nighthawk, gave a long sigh of relief.

"With that guy around, all these Nighthawks lost their appetites!" The female acolyte patted the Nighthawk in front of her that was eating cheerfully, seemingly just as relieved as her.

“That Venom Wyvern’s power is probably close to that of an official Magus. How strong must Magus Leylin be to be able to tame it?”

The male acolyte following behind Leylin had a very contrasting opinion from the female acolyte and his eyes reflected his envy and admiration for Leylin.

The Venom Wyvern’s flying speed was twice as fast as the Dragon Crown Nighthawk had been. It was thus much more convenient for Leylin to travel between Nightless City and the Four Seasons Garden.

Upon reaching the Nightless City’s landing pad, Leylin issued some orders for the acolytes to take care of his Venom Wyvern and gave Hawke another red bread pig before returning to his villa.

“Master!” Damien and a few Grand Knights bowed respectfully.

Leylin looked around, finding that the villa was still in the same state as it was before he had left. The human slaves that he had bought later on were carefully cleaning the staircase railing and all the pieces of artwork.

Damien was wearing a butler’s uniform, looking impeccable as he stood behind Leylin.

“Master! After you left, your neighbour, Magus Crew came over once. Also, I’ve already paid the continuity fees to the communal centre. Here is the inventory.”

After which, Damien gave a report of what he had done in this period of time.

“Okay.” Leylin paid no mind to his words and nodded along. This Damien seemed to have undergone specialised training while he was a slave and was very proficient in these matters. Leylin had branded him and there was no way that he could revolt, so Leylin could place his trust in him.

“That’s enough for now. Make me some dinner and milk tea!” Leylin ordered indifferently.

“Hawke can be used for transportation and can sweep away most

acolytes, but he won't be useful in battles with official Magi."

After a moment, Leylin, who was lying comfortably on a couch with pretty maids servicing him with their soft little hands, reflected with a hint of regret.

In the south coast, some Magi had top grade magic creatures as pets. These pets matured quickly, to the point that after their master advanced, it was possible for their own strength to reach the level of an official Magus.

In battle, how much help would an assistant with the same rank render?

Unfortunately, no matter how much Leylin searched and gathered them, he couldn't find these high-quality pets, and could only purchase a Venom Wyvern to use as a mount.

Magi and their pets had to agree upon a strict spirit contract, and there were some that even required them to share their life force!

Leylin was obviously not going to waste his chance on this Venom Wyvern and used the simplest and cruelest spirit brand to forcibly control it. It was going to be a temporary mount, and he was planning to substitute it with a better option at the next best opportunity.

"But it's a shame!"

Leylin turned his hand and a crystal that was like an amber revealed itself in his palm. In the middle of the crystal was a drop of green liquid that had a unique aura emanating from it constantly.

"The Venom Wyvern's blood essence has a trace of the bloodline of the ancient creature – the Thousand Venom Dragon!" The A.I. Chip prompted.

That was why he had purchased the Venom Wyvern.

While he was in Nightless City, Leylin had constantly been collecting creatures that might have ancient bloodlines in them and tried to purify their blood with the A.I. Chip.

However, a majority of his experiments were a failure, and the blood

essence in his palm was the best result he had.

“A.I. Chip, have you found out the reason?”

Chapter 175: The Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect

In order to obtain the bloodlines of more ancient creatures, Leylin had conducted numerous experiments. However, none of them were successful.

The best result was what was in his hand – the quintessence of some ancient creature.

To most Magi, this was probably a precious treasure, but for Leylin, this was far from enough.

[Beep! After 124 practical experiments and a comparison with 9718 simulated experiments, the conjecture is that the Host's concentration of bloodline essence is not enough. Unable to unearth deeper purification. Recommended to look for the blood essence of creatures with the power of rank 3 Magus and above as stimulus to purify bloodline.]

The A.I. Chip gave a prompt answer.

“As expected...” Leylin had already surmised this conjecture, and now it seemed to tally with the A.I. Chip's calculations.

After a long period of time, the ancient bloodline in the mystical creatures in the south coast had been thinned out so much that if not for the amazing ability of the A.I. Chip, Leylin would not even be able to refine this blood that was full of impurities.

To obtain a pure ancient bloodline, it was necessary to gain blood samples from even stronger monsters.

The A.I. Chip had gathered that at the bare minimum, blood samples from a rank 3 creature had to be obtained.

That meant that as long as Leylin was able to obtain the blood of a monster that was rank 3 or higher, the A.I. Chip would be able to purify and extract a perfect sample of the ancient bloodline.

“But... A creature that is rank 3 or above?” Leylin smiled wryly at his

thoughts, “I’d probably die just from a snort from them! I’d obtained the blood from the Black Horrall Snake that originally had the strength of a rank 3 Magus. Thankfully, its might had weakened to the equivalent of an acolyte, and that alone was a giant stroke of luck. It’s as if a tasty meat pie had fallen from the heavens! ”

The Giant Kemoyin Serpent’s bloodline that Leylin was in possession of was purified from the Black Horrall Snake previously found in the Dylan Gardens.

That Black Horrall Snake was a powerful creature that rivalled the strength of a rank 3 Magus at its adult stage!

The Black Horrall Snake back then had definitely matured into an adult. However, due to the limiters inside the secret plane, coupled with prolonged hunger – and perhaps also with the other methods from the great Magus Serholm – it caused the Black Horrall Snake’s state to deteriorate in its slumber, eventually turning pitiful enough to be attacked by a group of level 3 acolytes.

This was obviously a present that the great Magus Serholm left for his inheritor. It was an intentional setup and not a coincidence.

The great Magus Serholm was a rank 4 Warlock, and as compared to Leylin who was a rank 1 Warlock, he was the sun while Leylin was but a firefly.

“These things are dependent on luck. At most, I’ll take more notice in the future. It’s not the time to think about this now!”

Leylin pulled up his stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 58.9, Magic Power: 58 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 70%. Status: Healthy]

In this year, he had been continuing his trade with the old witch. Using the processed spirits she had gathered, he had obtained a large quantity of the ancient potion-Tears of Mary!

With the help of the ancient potion, Leylin's spiritual force shot up rapidly.

Leylin had spent quite some time in the Four Seasons Garden and through the exchange of contribution points, he had gathered the formulas of potions that could increase an official Magus' spiritual force.

However, he found that those potions' effects were nothing compared to the ancient potion.

With its help, Leylin increased his spiritual force at a shocking rate, as if he had no limits.

Presently, he had no choice but to use concealment methods to hide his tremendous spiritual force. He stayed indoors whenever possible, avoiding areas where rank 2 Magi might appear. He didn't want there to be any chances of others finding out.

Unfortunately, even with the A.I. Chip constantly upgrading the concealment method, it was not possible to hide his spiritual force entirely.

The moment he had a break, Leylin would rush back to Nightless City to hide and avoided all social interaction.

After reaching a certain level in terms of his spiritual force, Leylin had once again used the crystallised Darkness energy particles to push his elemental essence conversion to 70%!

However, after his elemental essence conversion reached 70%, Leylin received a notification from the A.I. Chip that his body and spirit had developed a resistance towards such crystals. Unless he found more precious resources to raise his elemental essence conversion in the future, he could only rely on meditation and time and progress at a slower rate.

"Potions made by ancient Magi are really different!"

A look of satisfaction crossed Leylin's face. "The agreement with the old witch cannot be broken. Moreover, finding new ways to conceal my spiritual force is becoming a matter of urgency."

In all honesty, he should be collecting the spirits himself. Directly branding the spirits of slaves who helped out would ensure that this matter was kept secret.

However, the preparatory stages for the brewing of the Tears of Mary required someone with the might of a rank 1 Magus. Moreover, it had to be a Magus who was specialised in spirits.

As for Leylin, his current attainment in the knowledge of spiritual force and spirits only allowed him to brand level 3 acolytes. It was basically impossible to brand an official Magus.

Anyway, the old witch had made her vow in front of the Trial's Eye, so she could be trusted for the time being.

"However, the amount of spirits provided by the old witch seems to have decreased. In the past few trades, she also seemed distant and unfocused and didn't even participate in the activities organised by the dark Magi organisation. It seems there's something of extreme importance going on. I'd better check on her tomorrow and hope that there won't be any trouble..."

This ally of his was recently acting strangely, inciting worry in Leylin's heart.

"Master! Your dinner's ready!"

Damien's voice sounded while he was deep in thought, enjoying the service from his maids.

"Alright! I'll be right there!"

Leylin opened his eyes, the blackness in his pupils gaining another depth in them...

After a day of entertainment and rest, Leylin was feeling refreshed. Wrapped in a black cloak, Leylin covered even his face and paid a visit to the old witch's shop.

"What happened to you?"

The moment Leylin saw the state the old witch was in, he wrinkled his

eyebrows.

The first time he'd seen her, the old witch looked like a dead person. The scent of death and decay was even more apparent now, and she looked like she was a corpse which had just crawled out of an old tomb. The undulations from her spiritual force were also extremely feeble.

This condition immediately alarmed Leylin.

For Magi, injuries on one's physical body were insignificant, but if one's spiritual force showed signs of weakening, that immediately meant that one's might was decreasing.

The old witch was still Leylin's ally, and he didn't want his supplier to suddenly disappear.

"Nothing much! Just a recent experiment that's approaching its crucial stage!" Her body was already as weak as it could get, and just speaking resulted in her panting. However, the light in her eyes was even more radiant, as if on the verge of burning up.

Leylin had seen such a fervent heat in a person's gaze before— in his previous life, in the eyes of lunatics and crazy people.

"You'd better not keep anything from me. Remember, we're allies. Haven't we been working well together in this past year?"

Leylin obviously didn't believe her vague explanation.

"When it's time, I'll definitely tell you everything."

The old witch gave a mysterious grin. "Also, I've found the spiritual force concealment method that you requested the previous time."

"What? What?!" This was so unexpected that a smile surfaced on Leylin's face.

He had always been searching for this content on the sly and attended a few of the dark Magi's bazaars and meets to exchange resources, but to no avail.

He wasn't expecting much when he employed her help, and it was a pleasant surprise that she had actually gotten what he wanted.

“This is information regarding the compression of spiritual force. Take a look!” She passed a green leaf to him.

Leylin reached out and took it, and then placed it on his forehead.

A cool feeling was emitted from the leaf and permeated Leylin’s skull, going straight into the depths of his brain.

[Spiritual force data interface has been detected. To accept the connection or not?] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“Accept!” With Leylin’s command, a massive stream of information entered Leylin’s sea of consciousness. It was constantly broken down, recorded and analysed by the A.I. Chip.

“Overall, the compression of spiritual force is to stack the spiritual force together continuously, arising in a different frequency of energy waves. From there, one can achieve the purpose of concealing their spiritual force...”

After browsing through for a while, Leylin smiled in satisfaction.

“This piece of information is very useful to me, but it seems to be incomplete. Where is the rest of it? Take it out! What do you want? Magic crystals? Potions? Resources? Just give the word!”

Leylin appeared to be extremely rich and overbearing.

“Hehehe... Just with the first half of this information, your spiritual force will be untraceable to all rank 1 Magi. Once you have the second half, even a rank 2 Magus won’t be able to discover your spiritual force energy waves. Although you can definitely afford it, I wish to make a trade with you using another method...” The old witch said with a cryptic laugh and hooted.

“What method?” Leylin’s brows furrowed, guessing that it was going to be extremely troublesome.

“I will give you the first half of the information now as a gift of thanks for being my ally!” The old witch appeared to be extremely generous, “As for the second half, I need you to do something for me!”

It was obvious that the old witch was using the second half of the information as bait to have Leylin help her with a certain matter.

“I need to know the specifics.”

Leylin did not refuse, but he did not agree either.

“Hehe... Don’t worry, I won’t ask you to hold back a rank 2 Magus or anything like that. I just want you to accompany me to explore some ruins.”

The old witch revealed her true motive.

“Exploring ruins? What ruins?” Leylin probed curiously.

“The remnants of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect!”

Chapter 175: Brass Ring and Jaye

“The Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect?!”

Leylin’s looked lost for a second, and immediately made a sound of astonishment. “Do you mean that sect that’s full of lunatics who think that spirits are the ultimate resting state of all living beings and like to massacre and sacrifice human flesh from time to time? Do you mean that wicked Magi sect?”

“Exactly! The Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect was just a small sect in the south coast during ancient times. I didn’t expect you to know of them!”

The old witch gasped at Leylin.

“The ruins of this kind of crazy sect is definitely going to be annoying. There might be some troublesome curses or mechanisms in there...”

Leylin was very clear about his abilities.

A year ago, he could barely win over a Magus with 50% elemental essence conversion and was considered an elite within the tier of rank 1 Magi.

After a year of constantly increasing his spiritual force and elemental essence conversion, the current him was at the top, second only to those who were on the verge of breaking through and already met the requirements in terms of their spiritual force and elemental essence conversion.

This might was considered quite good in the entire south coast and he could be ranked highly here, but, if he had the misfortune of bumping into a rank 2 Magus, all that awaited him was death. At the most, he had a little hope of escaping with all his might, but what were his chances of survival? The A.I. Chip calculated that it was less than 10%!

In ancient times, elite Magi organisations were sure to have rank 4 Magi taking charge, and it was obvious that there were multiple rank 2 and 3 Magi.

The mechanisms left behind by Magi with such levels of strength were

definitely not something Leylin could ward off, even though thousands of years had passed.

“Don’t worry, we’re just seeing a small part of it! I’ve also invited a few other friends. I just need one item from there, and all other gains will be left for you to divide amongst yourselves!”

The old witch gave her word.

“It looks like this item must be of massive importance to her. If that’s the case, it might be possible for me to...”

After hearing her words, Leylin’s eyes darted around as he considered.

“I need to think this over.”

Out of cautiousness, Leylin decided to obtain more information first before answering her.

“Alright, but make it quick. I plan to leave in five days, so contact me using the secret imprint before then!” The old witch gave a quick nod and passed a dozen spirit spheres to Leylin.

“This is the latest batch of spirits! However, I need 20% more of your potions this time. I’ll exchange some items to make up for this! How about two hundred thousand magic crystals and a Wolf Spirit Flower?”

Leylin glanced at the old witch, whose spiritual force undulations were waning.

If she was the one using all those spiritual force potions, she definitely would not be in this state. From the looks of it, all the potions she had obtained had been given to someone else.

“Sure!” After giving it a thought, Leylin agreed.

In order to increase the efficiency of the Tears of Mary and break through the nature of spiritual force, which always hit a bottleneck, he would always meditate for a period of time first. When the increase in his spiritual force slowed, he would then use the potion.

Based on the A.I. Chip’s calculations, this combination was the best method to consume the potion.

Hence, he still had some Tears of Mary in his possession.

.....

Five days later, on a flat ground in the eastern part of the Nightless City.

A shining bright moon hung in the sky, reflecting a silvery lustre on the earth.

The silhouettes of the trees dancing in the wind continuously projected malevolent shadows on the ground, just like monsters of various shapes and sizes.

Whoosh!

Countless black figures converged, forming the shadows of 3 figures on the ground.

Two of the three people had worn a thick layer of black robes and used a veil to cover their faces. It seemed to give off the vibe of something eerie and crafty.

“Old Devil! When is Blood Rogue coming?” A cloaked figure spoke to the person that did not put on a veil but had a small demon mask on instead.

“Soon!” The voice of an old woman sounded from under the mask.

“By the way, I don’t have a problem with you getting Blood Rogue to come since he’s from our organisation and he’s quite strong. Who’s this person though?”

The cloaked person projected to the old witch, evidently dissatisfied.

“Don’t worry, she’s a good friend of mine. She’s definitely trustworthy!” The old witch guaranteed.

“She’d better be. If not, no matter how tempting your rewards are, I’ll take my leave!”

“Don’t worry, she’s...” She projected to him once more.

“I see!” She told the cloaked person some information, and it immediately became silent.

Minutes later, a blood-red flame soared at the site and a silhouette

covered in a crimson cloak directly appeared on the ground.

“My apologies, I’m a little late!”

Leylin spoke and glanced through the people around.

He was obviously familiar with the old witch, and he had also seen the cloaked man in the dark Magi organisation before. He went by the nickname Brass Ring. As for the other, Leylin had no idea who it was.

“Blood Rogue, you’re here! Let me introduce you, you already know Brass Ring, and this here is Jaye, a good friend of mine!”

The old witch first gave a brief introduction.

At this moment, Leylin, who had gone back to his experiment lab and tested the spiritual force concealment spell that he had gotten from the old witch, coveted the latter half of the spell even more.

Moreover, regarding the ruins of an ancient organisation such as the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, Leylin was also somewhat interested in them. Hence, after a period of consideration, he finally agreed to the old witch’s invitation.

However, as she had invited others, Leylin naturally made a deal with the old witch and came here with his identity as Blood Rogue in the dark Magi organisation.

Since he was using that identity, he naturally couldn’t ride his Venom Wyvern.

The present Leylin’s face was all red, and he had the appearance of a malevolent demon. There were even horns on his demon mask.

“Blood Rogue! Long time no see!” Brass Ring acknowledged his comrade.

Leylin’s had gained a reputation from his identity as Blood Rogue from the few operations within the organisation. It could also be said that he was infamous, and coupled with the way the bald Venom Snake had suddenly vanished with no warning, Brass Ring was slightly fearful of this Blood Rogue.

Dark Magi respected power, and Brass Ring naturally would not

underestimate Leylin.

“Brass Ring! And Jaye, hello!” Leylin greeted and smiled.

“Alright, since we’re all here, let us set off!”

The old witch nodded her head and her figure disappeared in the darkness. Following which, after various flashes of light, there was no one left on this patch of ground, and darkness once again enveloped the area...

The old witch led Leylin and the others on a hastened journey. As they were all official Magus, their travelling speed was extremely quick, far surpassing the speed of horses. In the span of two days, they had already traversed across the entire Teljose plains.

Following which, Leylin and the others walked towards an extremely ordinary looking town.

This western styled town was no different from others, and the total headcount would not exceed ten thousand people.

As for the professions in this town, lumberers and farmers comprised the bulk of it. On the paths, there were even rubbish and dung strewn.

“It smells quite bad here!”

Brass Ring grumbled.

From the strange attire of the four of them, it was obvious that they could not enter the small town in broad daylight. The old witch first let them hide outside while she went in by herself.

After that, they strutted in without fear to the sight of numerous people who were in a deep sleep along the roads.

“This...” Leylin breathed in with his nose, “The pollen of the Sea Anemone Flower, and the liquid secretion from the Pungent Rat’s joints! This dosage is enough for them to stay asleep for at least three days and three nights!”

“Hehe... And even if someone were to chop off one of their legs or kill them, they wouldn’t even wake up. That’s enough for us to conduct our exploration...”

“Is three days enough? Isn’t it more convenient to just kill all of them? We can even take this opportunity to obtain a few bloodthirsty spirits and the like.” Brass Ring casually brought up.

This was the way a typical dark Magus thought. They revelled in bloodshed and violence and preferred to slaughter in order to solve most of their problems.

“After the exploration, I’ll let you do anything you want with them, but now, you have to listen to me!” The old witch stared at Brass Ring, a strange undulation emitting from her body.

Teng Teng! Brass Ring had to retreat a few steps. “Are you mad? You want to use this in this situation? Are you looking to die?”

“Don’t provoke me, or you’ll absolutely regret it!” Her voice was hoarse.

At this moment, Brass Ring suddenly came to the realisation that the old witch in front of him was one of the elders in the organisation. She had connections and her powers were unknown, and if not for an incident many years ago, her power would be much stronger now!

At this moment, the other Magus called Jaye stood behind the old witch and expressed her support for her.

“Alright, alright! Let’s make a compromise and not act this way!”

Leylin began to resolve the dispute, “Among the light Magi’s standard operating procedures during times of calamity, a town whose civilians had all fainted or were all massacred are two different matters altogether. The first scenario would only have acolytes dispatched to investigate, as for the second scenario, there will be official Magi dispatched!”

“For the sake of our safety, Brass Ring, it’s better for you to hold it in!” Following which, Leylin turned around and asked the old witch, “Time is indeed a concern. Old Devil, I’m sure you can tell us some things by now, can’t you?”

The old witch looked at Leylin deep in the eyes before reluctantly agreeing. “Alright then!”

“... This is a small scale secret plane that I stumbled on during my travels. It should be an experiment lab of sorts. The area will not exceed 100 mu, so we can definitely finish exploring it within 3 days!”

“Small scale secret plane?” A flash of disappointment was shown on Leylin’s face.

In the south coast, the secret planes were also categorised.

Chapter 176: A Banshee

In the south coast, the storage type secret plane Leylin had previously raided and the laboratory type secret plane that the old witch found were all classified as small scale secret planes.

The area of these kind of secret planes usually didn't exceed a 100 mu and were only used to perform experiments and to store supplies. If one does not take into account of the items stored inside and only look at the area of the secret plane, its worth would be at the bottom.

Above that were the resource type secret planes, the area of that type of secret planes is usually larger than 100,000 mu. The area is large and the topology is varied and suitable to grow resources necessary to Magi.

The highest rank of secret planes are those that have spells that can adjust the living environments of both plants and animals, and can be controlled by a single Magus!

These are only under normal circumstances, there are also places like Dylan Gardens which Leylin previously found. Even though the area was small but it was personally arranged by the fourth level warlock great Magus Serholm, thus its value couldn't be compared to the normal planes of its kind.

"It's a shame! If it was a resource type of secret plane, we could occupy it in secret then alter it, hehe... then we would be filthy rich!"

Brass Ring was stroking his chin as if he was caught in some fantasy.

"Keep dreaming!" The old witch sneered icily, interrupting Brass Ring's fancy dreams.

"The bigger the area of the secret plane, the higher the cost of construction. As for the resource type secret planes which was larger than 100k mu, even for some ancient Magi organisations, there weren't many that could afford to construct it..."

"All the present resource type secret planes that belongs to the large organisations are all remnants from the ancient Magi which have been

altered slightly, that's all! If there really was a resource type secret plane being discovered here, the likes of us wouldn't be able to stomach it. Even if we added our whole organisation plus the Boss that is backing it, it still wouldn't be enough!"

"Let's go! Even if it's just a laboratory type of secret plane, there must still be a lot of valuable stuff inside. We're also handing over a lot contributions to the higher ups. It's enough for you to trade for a lot of resources!" Leylin said.

For these kind of small scale secret planes, every large Magi organisation has set up missions.

No matter if it's Four Seasons Garden or the dark Magi organisation which the old witch belonged to, they all have the power to take it over. After which there naturally will be a lot of rewards for the finders.

If this was a resource type of secret plane then Leylin would put in some thought in order to pocket it himself.

Since it's only a laboratory type of secret plane, he didn't put much thought into pocketing it. After all even if he was to occupy it because it's so small he couldn't actually alter it that much. At most he would only have a small scale secret base to hide.

"The entrance to the secret plane is on the west side of this town, inside a two story wooden building!"

The old witch seemed quite familiar with the surroundings as she brought the three of them to a two-storey building made out of wood.

Compare to the small town, this place was even more remote. Weed were growing all around the villa and there were even two mole like animals quickly scurrying by.

"Originally this place was a lively street, but since 13 years ago the residents in this place kept dying one by one. Sometimes the town residents could hear sound of a woman wailing outside their homes, that's why the rumors spread about it being a cursed or a haunted house. The surroundings ended up being overgrown!"

The old witch opened up the rusted gates while feeling rather satisfied with herself.

“I found this place during one of my explorations, after a couple of months of investigation, I’m sure that the unusual situations around here is cause by the deterioration of the defensive spells around the entrance to the secret plane, unwillingly leaking radiation ...”

“According to calculations, after 13 years the defensive spells should have totally deteriorated. Leaving the entrance to the secret plane exposed...”

“Thusly I pretend to be an ordinary person and bought this building, plus I added a facade on the outside so other Magi couldn’t discover this place.”

Leylin was listening to the old witch while he was exploring the inside of this building.

The bottom floor wasn’t that big, it only contained 2 to 3 buildings. The hall was filled with a thick layer of dust and broken furniture. In the corner was a spiral staircase filled with holes. It was the only thing connecting these two floors.

Beneath this obvious state of decline, Leylin could feel a strong aura of negative energy.

This aura was extremely malevolent, and it carried with it a smell that Leylin was familiar with.

“Spirits! And they’re spirits that have been driven crazy from being vengeful!” The corner of Leylin’s mouth curved, “This old witch really found a nice place!”

“Follow me! Be careful not to touch the black mold on the walls, those are trigger points!”

The old witch was in front leading the while, bringing the three behind as they climbed the squeaky stairs to the second floor. She seemed extremely familiar with this place.

The area on the second floor was smaller than the large hall on the first, where the corridors only allowed 2 people to walk side by side.

By chance Leylin was walking beside Jaye, because the other person was entirely wrapped in a cloak and didn't speak much. Leylin couldn't even distinguish the other person's gender.

"This oil painting is the entrance to the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect's secret plane!"

By the end of the corridor, the old witch was pointing towards an oil painting that was hanging on the wall as she turned around and spoke to Leylin and the rest.

Leylin's focus involuntarily shifted to the oil painting.

This oil painting depicted a richly dressed noble woman, using a delicate fan to cover half her face.

Due to time and age, there were a lot of dust on the walls. Even around the oil painting were a ring of thick dust.

The whole oil painting used green as a base color, and it didn't seem to fit the picture.

Besides, maybe it's because of the angle and line, but if he stared at it long enough, Leylin felt that the fan the noble woman was holding in the oil painting moved slightly.

Suddenly, the young woman inside the oil painting blinked her eyes!

"Is this oil painting alive?"

Leylin cried out involuntarily.

"You're finally awake?" The old witch advanced as she cackled.

"Foreign intruders, speak the password!" The woman inside the oil painting blinked again as information directly entered each Magus that was present.

"Password? Your masters have all perished, and right now we've come to take everything inside the secret plane!"

The old witch was staring at the woman in the oil painting, "If you choose to comply, there might be a place for you inside my storage room!"

"Password incorrect!" The woman inside the painting said. Leylin was keenly aware of that the fan which the noble woman held inside her hand closed slightly.

"It's only a being conjured by spells, yet it dares to disobey me!"

The old witch's eyes emitted green lights, and a ring of green fireballs emerged flying directly toward the oil painting.

Bam!

As the green fireballs burned the oil paint, the noble woman's fan closed entirely exposing the face behind it.

Leylin didn't expect that under the beautiful half of the noble woman's face was a nose and mouth composed entirely out of bones.

This appearance was as if the flesh and blood below the noble woman's eyes had instantly disappeared.

A feeling of discrepancy and wrongness suddenly assaulted Leylin's thoracic cavity.

Scree!

Following that, the shrill sound of a woman flooded the whole corridor.

The green fireballs started to crumble, turning into small spark of green fire. Following which it directly extinguished in the fluctuation of the air.

[Beep! Host is being attacked by sound waves. Resemblance to banshee wail 67%. Abnormality in muscle coordination, spiritual force circulation rate lowered by 89%...]

The A.I. Chip projected the status with red color in front of Leylin's eyes.

"Banshee wail? Could it be that there is a genuine banshee trapped inside that oil painting?" Leylin was startled, immediately a layer of crimson membrane appeared outside his body and isolated the sound.

Even though his ears still hurt, but his body has regained his mobility.

At the same time, a couple of blood red tentacles like intestines protruded from the oil painting and they headed for Brass Ring.

“Damnable thing!” Brass Ring cursed as his body protruded countless bone spikes. The red intestines was directly pierced and was severed.

“Bone Spike Arts?!” Leylin was startled, “He actually solidified this kind of innate spells onto himself, is he a masochist?”

Bone Spike Arts was a rank 1 spell, and was quite formidable. But its activation process was quite a hassle. It needed to be grown from a Magus’ own skeleton then pierce the Magus’ own muscle before attacking his opponent.

This kind of spell was literally hurting oneself before hurting your opponent, only maniacs and masochist would pick this.

“I’ll tear you damnable thing to pieces!”. One could see that Brass Ring was quite enraged since he was forced to use his innate spell.

Presently, his whole body was covered with bone spikes. It gave one the impression that he was like a white sea urchin.

At the same time, a green light spread from below his neck to his whole body, initiating blood staunching and similar effects.

“Stop!” The old witch’s body started to emit countless translucent spirit bodies, and every one of them circulated around Brass Ring’s body, making his speed drop.

“There is a spell effect on this oil painting, if you tear it apart the whole entrance to the secret plan will also collapse!”

The old witch’s expression turned serious, “Let me do it!”

When the previous Banshee wail had struck, the bodies of both the old witch and Jaye emitted a black colored membrane. It seemed like neither of them suffered any injuries.

“Your Banshee wail was pretty good, it is a shame that the matching spell formation has been half collapsed due to the passage of time. What’s left isn’t something than can affect us official Magi...”

The old witch looked upon the Banshee within the oil painting with pity, as she stroked the surface of the painting with her hand.

Following which tiny dark purple dots originated from the old witch's palm and spread continuously. Like someone was adding a coat of paint.

“Come forth! My baby!”

The old witch said softly, her voice sounding tender and flirtatious.

As soon as these words were uttered, the Banshee within the painting turned fearful, as if she had encountered her natural enemy.

Chapter 177: The Spirit Devouring Moth

After the black purple colour extended throughout the entire oil painting, the banshee disappeared without a trace.

“That’s a pretty good entrapment method! Did you buy this just for this purpose?”

Leylin approached the old witch, “I’m rather interested in this banshee. Can you sell it to me later? I’ll buy it at twice the market price!”

“Once we’re done exploring the secret plane and we find what I want, I can just give it to you!”

The old witch flashed Leylin a glance.

At the present, in the middle of the oil painting a small dot of silver light suddenly appeared.

The silvery light grew bigger and bigger and the surrounding void started to ripple. Finally, it settled into a corridor filled with a silvery sheen.

Resentment, wailing! A strong aura of dark spiritual power poured out constantly from within the corridor.

A faint mist started to rise around the whole wooden building and the sound of people of all ages started to sound all around.

This kind of scenery, if the old witch didn’t previously put everyone in the town into slumber, would most likely have caused quite a commotion in the town.

“Even though there is no chance of encountering any ancient Magi inside the secret plane, but there are still some lingering curses and traps that are still working. We better be careful... considering that the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect was a Magi organization famous for researching spirits, one must prepare accordingly.”

The old witch warned specifically.

“By now you should reveal to us what you’re really looking for right?” Leylin locked the old witch with his gaze.

“Heuheuheu... relax, you’ll all know when that time comes!” The old witch just cackled manically as usual.

“Speak the truth. Old Devil if you still won’t we all will feel insecure...” This time, Brass Ring sided with Leylin, “If you don’t tell me now, I won’t be able to keep my former promises...”

“You guys...” The old witch was quite anxious but suddenly broke into a coughing fit. Her originally crooked body seemed to bend even more as if her waist was about to break.

“Sigh... Alright then!”

After a long while the old witch recovered her breath but her complexion was turning paler.

“It’s an altar-like thing. There is only one of it in the whole laboratory. You won’t be able to miss it!”

The old witch spoke with an impatience.

“Then what? Only this much information?” Brass Ring immediately asked.

“What else do you think there is?” The old witch’s eyes emitted green light as her gaze bore into the body of Brass Ring, “I only found some clues from some ancient information that this altar might be inside this secret plane, how could I know any more specific facts?”

As if he was afraid that the old witch would again lash out at him, Brass Ring chose wisely not to ask any further questions.

“Then what’s the altar’s function?” After Brass Ring went silent, Leylin asked instead. “Don’t tell me that you don’t even know how to use the altar and still went to look for it.”

“Of course not!” The old witch tried to calm her expression but still chose to speak at last, “That altar is a product made by the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect during their later periods, and is called the Spirit Altar. It has great benefits towards alleviating my current conditions. There is even a chance that it might directly cure it...”

“If you all help me get to it, then Blood Rogue’s materials, Brass Ring’s thunder fire stone, Jaye’s gasping lakewater will all be given, not one gram less!”

The old witch guaranteed once more.

Leylin didn’t completely believe it – it was apparent that the old witch had some other tricks up her sleeve.

“You and I are old friends, if I won’t help you then who will?” Among the rest of the three Jaye was the first to speak. The voice was neither masculine nor feminine and carried a weird pitch.

“Alright! I was just asking!” Brass Ring also started to concede.

“What about you Blood Rogue?” The old witch looked over Leylin.

“If you are not planning to exploit us and make us risk our lives for your cause, I don’t have any other objections!” Leylin sneered.

“That’s good!”

The old witch looked at the corridor which emitted silvery light and said, “Alright, the corridor should be completely stabilised by now, let’s us proceed!”

Following which the old witch’s eyes radiated a fervent hunger as she stepped into the corridor.

Leylin and the rest looked at each other and followed.

The dazzling silvery light suddenly expanded and swallowed the four people completely.

“Buzz buzz!”

Leylin scanned his surroundings.

What he saw was a black corridor which seemed to be constructed by some unknown metal. The wall could strangely enough reflect their shadows.

But the shadows appeared twisted and seemed to emit a bone-chilling laughter.

“Illusion materialization technique?” Leylin smiled coldly. Black light flashed in his eyes and he was able to break out of the illusion immediately.

Following which he heard some buzzing sounds.

Following the sound a large grey cloud appeared. Once it got closer, Leylin discovered that this dark cloud consisted of densely packed, moth-like organisms.

Fur grew on these organisms, and the image of a huge eye was depicted on each of their huge wings. It seemed quite eerie.

“Careful! Those are the Spirit Devouring Moths!” The old witch raised the alarm.

“Don’t touch the dust that they carry, otherwise your spirit and mentality will be continuously corroded!”

At the same time the old witch opened her mouth and emitted a shrill scream. Sound waves could be seen exploding forth like an artillery shell.

Boom!

Half of the grey clouds disappeared, and at the same time, a huge amount of dust billowed down like it was snowing.

Whoosh! As he heard the old witch mention the name of Spirit Devouring Moths, Leylin was already on alert. Now a scarlet red membrane of light enveloped his body and kept the dust at bay.

[Host’s body is being attacked by an unknown powder. The powder has a sticky quality!] [Activating the defense potion smeared on Host’s body. Adjusting frequency, emitting shockwaves... Adhesive powder substance’s effect removed!] A prompt from the A.I. Chip emerged in front of Leylin’s eyes.

“Such a bother!”

Leylin had read about this adhesive quality in the Four Seasons Garden’s library before. This type of attack would stick onto the opponent’s body, and if the layer of light was removed before the powder was completely

gotten rid of, the powder's magic would be activated and begin the second attack.

“Crimson Palm!”

Leylin's hands suddenly turned red as he struck an offensive pose. Both his hands clawed in front of him.

Bang!

Two crimson talons' image flashed through the void. It surrounded the Spirit Devouring Moths from both left and right and pressed towards the center.

Countless moths were directly torn into tatters by the blood talons, torn wings and grey dust like kept fluttering.

[Host's Crimson Palm's theoretical power: 20 degrees. Real power: 34 degrees, Crimson Palm reached boundary of limits, adding additional power!]

Along with the sound from the A.I. Chip's prompt, the phantom crimson claws in the air suddenly trembled, and blood-red flames burst out from his two hands, burning up all the falling bodies.

Without even emitting any smoke, the Spirit Devouring Moths were directly burnt to ashes in the crimson flames.

“Is this the signature move of the Blood Rogue – the Crimson Palm? Why is it so powerful?”

Brass Ring looked at Leylin with shock.

Within the dark Magi organisation, Leylin was a newcomer who went by the name Blood Rogue, and the spells that he often used were quickly revealed.

Brass Ring was aware that Leylin had such a technique, but he never knew that it had such a mighty offensive power!

“You have made great progress recently!”

The old witch secretly transmitted to Leylin.

From what Brass Ring had seen from the battle between the old witch and the Spirit Devouring Moths, he reckoned that these creatures were crafty and difficult to handle. Leylin, however, had used just one spell and completely demolished the opponent, which shocked the old witch.

It seemed that from the very beginning, this ally of hers had been developing at a frightening speed!

“This might... Is your elemental essence conversion more than 50%?” The old witch transmitted her voice to Leylin.

“What do you think?” Leylin answered indifferently.

“Hehe... the stronger you are the more it will benefit me. After all, compared to Brass Ring, I would rather trust you who signed a contract with me!”

The old witch made another promise while she spouted words she herself didn't believe, “As long as you help me, not only will I give you information about concealing your spiritual force, I'll also give you another million magic crystals. Hell, I'll even give up my position as an elder in the organisation to you!”

“A position like that is transferrable?” Leylin was a little shocked. The group that he was in, the Thousand Meddling Leaves, didn't have any real leader. The rank 2 dark Magus backing them was only in contact with a few of the elders.

The organisation had gatherings and trade fairs every once in awhile, letting the members have chances to find good opportunities.

The moment an elder felt that the lead a member had found was worth acting on, he or she would gather the members and launch a looting operation. The elder and members who had first found out about this chance would be able to get a bonus after the plundering.

It was obvious that once one became an elder, he or she would have a place as a leader in the dark Magi organisation. His or her status would be different.

“This situation would be impossible in a typical organisation, but what

can I do when I have a dark Magi organisation backing me?" The transmitted voice of the old witch sounded bitter.

"Actually, besides me, the other elders have been changed quite a few times already. My condition hasn't been the best lately, and the number of people waiting to trample on me have increased..."

Her explanation made a lot of sense, but Leylin didn't really believe it.

"Alright! Since I've received your deposit, I'll do my best in the coming expedition!" Leylin agreed.

This entire exchange was very quick, and as they both came to an agreement, the blood-red flames that had just been ignited in mid-air, had been extinguished.

The old witch took on her role as the leader and guided them in. Minutes later, the four of them came to a fork in the path.

Chapter 178: Vengeful Spirit – Loathsome Evil

In front of Leylin and the rest of the exploration team.

A passage made of jet-black metal had opened up to three pathways, each leading to a different direction.

At each of the entrances, there were no obvious signs at all, causing a wave of foreboding to go through the four of them.

“Since it’s a laboratory, how can there not be a sign for it?”

Brass Ring took the initiative and asked.

“There might have been one that had been destroyed by someone, or the Magi here had another method of communication that we’re unaware of!”

The old witch shot a glance at Brass Ring. “What’s wrong? We’ve come all the way here, are you thinking of backing out of our deal?”

“Of course not!” Brass Ring shook his head like it was the most obvious thing to do.

Not only were the rewards that the old witch offered extremely generous, there was a large possibility of there being large amounts of profit from within the secret plane. Neither of these were things that Brass Ring was willing to give up on.

“In that case, should we split up into teams and search, or do it by ourselves?” Leylin asked a very practical question.

“Of course, we’re going to go in as a group! This is the ruins left behind by ancient Magi! Traps and other defense mechanisms are not easy for us to dismantle even as a group! It’s much too dangerous for us to act alone!”

As the initiator of this operation, the old witch was resolute and made the decision for them.

“We’ve set up everything in the town already, and in the next ten days, there will certainly not be any people compelled to enter. This is enough

time for us to clear up everything in the laboratory!”

After hearing her words, Jaye quickly agreed. Leylin thought it through for a while and also nodded.

“Alright then!”

Hearing Leylin’s agreement, Brass Ring had no choice but to curl his lip and approve of this suggestion.

The four of them chose the path that was on the far right and entered.

Step step!

Black leather shoes and the metal flooring met, the friction causing a very piercing sound.

“Be careful. The methods of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect are much more difficult to deal with than Spirit Devouring Moths...” Leylin reminded as he glanced at the surrounding walls.

A bright sound was constantly travelling through the passage, and there were also some echoes.

Leylin suddenly paused.

Only his figure was left in the entire passage. The old witch, Brass Ring, and Jaye had all disappeared!

“What happened?” Leylin fixed his attention on the red reflection on the metal wall.

“Did I unconsciously activate some trap? Even the A.I. Chip didn’t detect it!”

A hint of a smile appeared on his lips. “Looks like this expedition isn’t going to be so simple...”

Ding!

Leylin’s sudden stop seemed to have triggered some sort of mechanism, and behind him, the metallic walls seemed to have lives of their own as they converged, thus blocking his retreat.

“Crimson Palm!”

Both of Leylin's palms turn blood red once again, crimson flames burning from the claws as he pressed them directly on the converging walls.

Sssii!

As if cold ice had been directly thrown onto a blazing inferno, a sizzling sound of evaporating water was heard.

Under Leylin's hands, the unknown black metal turned completely red and constantly melted, forming puddles of liquid metal that stained the floor.

Over ten seconds later, the metallic walls that had suddenly emerged had a hole that was about one metre deep, and yet there was no sign of the end.

It seemed that in that moment, Leylin's path of retreat had been completely blocked by the black metallic wall.

[Based on the data taken so far, estimated thickness of metal wall: 45-47 metres. There is also a huge amount of the Manker Alloy found in the middle. Estimated time required for Host to entirely break through: 30 Minutes 56 Seconds!]

The A.I. Chip projected blue lines of data in front of Leylin.

"Half an hour. That's much too long!"

Leylin wasn't so naive to think that the Magus who had designed the trap would be so kind as to give him time to escape.

Sure enough, the longer amount of time Leylin stayed in there, the black metal in front of him also started to distort and gather in the centre as if it had a life of its own.

The passage became increasingly narrow, to the point that only one person would be able to pass through.

"I can't let this go on any longer. Otherwise, I'll be stuck in the middle of a huge metal sphere. It'll take too much magic power and spiritual force to get out!"

Leylin glanced at the wall that had a large hole in it and rushed forward.

Zoom!

With the help of his burly physique and his magic, Leylin's speed was already past the limits of a regular human. All that was left of him were a few long after images.

The passage ahead seemed to sense Leylin's approach and converged at an even quicker rate!

"Hah!" Leylin breathed in deeply and quickly spat out a few punctuated syllables!

In a split second, the blood-red layer on his body expanded, the flames' range achieving half a metre, emitting a fervent heat.

Leylin seemed to have been possessed by some ancient flaming creature, and with his body cloaked in crimson flames, he darted quickly towards the small crack left between the black metal!

Bang!

The entire passageway jolted slightly, and the sound of corrosion sounded.

Right as the metallic walls were about to converge, Leylin had forced his way out, leaving behind a human-shaped gap. Droplets of liquidised black metal were still dripping incessantly.

Leylin's charge had lasted for almost an entire minute, and he only stopped the flames when his field of view opened up.

"What a troublesome passage!"

Leylin looked at the black passage behind him that had completely closed up. This sort of passageway might not be able to kill a Magus, but it was able to make the opponent waste large amounts of spiritual and magic force, and just the slightest bit of hesitance would entrap the Magus within it. It would consume a lot of magic power to fire a spell, and by the time the Magus' spiritual force and magic power had been mostly used, coupled with the curses and traps, it was enough to inflict serious damage,

or even kill the intruder!

“This trap should have several parts to it, which implies that this is the area where the next part will be activated!”

Leylin surveyed his surroundings.

This used to be a garden or a place where plants were cultivated. It had a large area, and streams of man-made sunlight shone upon the land. Those were the Sunbeam Moss, which were tenaciously exhibiting their usefulness. There was also evidence of plants wilting.

“Though this is just a small-scaled garden, it seems to have been well taken care of. It’s such a waste that it was abandoned...”

Leylin constantly swept his eyes over the garden.

His time at the Four Seasons Garden’s secret plane had allowed him to identify a few plants from their remnants.

“The Three Horned Flower, Spirit Breaking Grass, as well as the Half Bodied Bat, Upside Down Lizard– These four are the main cultivators of this garden!

“The Three Horned Flower pollinates with the help of Half Bodied Bat, and the excretion from the Inverted Lizard is the best fertilizer for the Spirit Breaking Grass! In the middle of the region where the Three Horned Flower and Spirit Breaking Grass are located, there also seems to be a Star Fruit. This is what the Half Bodied Bat and Inverted Lizard feed on!

“This method of growing them...” A light flashed in Leylin’s blue eyes.

“This can increase the output of the Half Bodied Bat by 50%, the Inverted Lizard by 40% and the Three Horned Flower and Spirit Breaking Grass by 10%...”

Constructing a garden outside a laboratory must have been to make it convenient to make potions and other items that would be useful in experiments.

The reason why Leylin was calculating the output of the plants and animals so carefully was because he wanted to probe and find signs of

experimentation.

Just based on these clues, brilliant Magi could deduce the scope of experimentation and the laboratory's uses in ancient times.

With the knowledge that the A.I. Chip had gathered from the Four Seasons Garden's library, Leylin's knowledge was very profound. With the added aid from the A.I. Chip's calculations, he would also be able to make a fairly accurate guess.

"A.I. Chip! Search for similar ancient potion formulas that primarily require these four ingredients!"

Though the number of formulas that Leylin had received were few, the ingredients required to make ancient potions were made public. Only the steps to brew the potion had been written in code on the formula, and as a result, the A.I. Chip had gathered quite a lot of information.

[Beep! Entering simulated data! Searching database for compatible potions!]

The A.I. Chip loyally intoned.

Rows of data flowed, finally stopping on a few columns.

[Spirit Fusion Potion. Similarity: 79% Effect: Able to boost fusion between different spirits by a large margin, producing a new consciousness from a fused body.] [Rejecting Spirits Removal Potion. Similarity: 56%. Effect: Able to eliminate confusion between spirits while fusing and stabilise the new spirit body.] [Wolfiporia Potion. Similarity: 34%. Effect: Able to boost the power of the spirit by a large margin! Side effects: Spirit's consciousness will be expelled to a certain extent.]

Leylin examined the information pertaining to these potions, and the look on his face became more serious.

A period of time later, he sighed slowly. "These potions all complement each other. From the looks of it, I seem to have discovered something amazing!"

"Oooh..."

Just when Leylin was thinking of exploring further, a low and hoarse voice sounded, and an enormous and warped figure appeared in the line of Leylin's sight.

It was a huge monster that was about 10 metres tall.

There were numerous frightful wounds that were sewn together, and it looked to be the result of putting different body parts together.

This stitched up monster's right hand was twisted in a weird shape and had eight fingers. In the palm of its left hand was a large axe that was dotted with rust.

Other than the two large arms, there were many slim arms grown on its upper body and back which were continuously trembling.

"This is a type of vengeful spirit... the Loathsome Evil!"

Leylin sucked in a cold breath. "Such a huge physique! How much blood and flesh had to be sacrificed for its body to still be so solid?"

[Alert! Alert! High levelled creature approaching with a strong contamination of spirits! According to the Host's level, the threat is at a Grade 5!]

The A.I. Chip frantically warned.

Chapter 179: Fierce Battle

The Loathsome Evil was a creature that Leylin had seen in ancient books. It was a type of life form that had been created by Magi.

Its exact origin was unknown, but Leylin could very clearly remember that in ancient books, the Loathsome Evil had been described as a fiend.

This type of lifeform had an exceedingly powerful body and vitality. What was even more frightening was the spirit pollution constantly emanating from its body.

Ordinary people were simply unable to withstand the pollution caused to their spirits and usually died en masse.

As a result, the appearance of a Loathsome Evil generally marked the destruction of cities and the loss of countless lives.

The most frightening record had been when an entire army of over a hundred Loathsome Evils appeared!

This terrifying army had destroyed two ancient Magi's headquarters and caused the deaths of approximately twenty percent or more of the population of the south coast.

Ultimately, only with the aid from an unknown ancient Morning Star Magus was that terrible army completely destroyed.

"I didn't expect the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect to have created this Loathsome Evil! Then again, the timing is just right!"

Within Leylin's eyes, there appeared a flash of understanding.

Based on the annals of the Magus world's history, after the disaster caused by the Loathsome Evils, the Spirit Slaying Sect sank into a weird state of affairs. First, they proclaimed their conviction that a supreme Magus had descended, and then they ruled this world. Soon after, they carried a very large scale blood and flesh sacrifice and thereby disappeared from this Magus world.

Now, it was clear to him that the thriving Spirit Slaying Sect had

offended the Magi of the south coast, so the Magi had all joined hands to destroy this sect.

At this moment, the Loathsome Evil that had been wandering around noticed Leylin.

Through its eyes, one of which was big and the other small, its thirst for blood was self-evident. Even its huge, bloated body was trembling in excitement.

A light green haze permeated the entire garden.

“Spirit Pollution!” Leylin’s expression became grim, as he recognised the most dreadful attack from this Loathsome Evil.

“Kemoyin’s Scales!”

With a single thought, a fine layer of scales covered his body. The scales were jet-black and densely packed as they crept up Leylin’s arms and even his face.

Under the protection of the scales, Leylin’s current appearance was vastly different. There was even a hint of amber light in his eyes.

These scales did not give him a fiendish image, but rather, with the influence and charm that a Warlock’s bloodline gave him, there was a sense elegance to his appearance.

Even a regular human would think there was a wild aesthetic to Leylin.

If Leylin was a sub-human and part of the Snake family, he’d even be treated as a precious tribute to the queen snakes of various families, though Leylin would definitely be unwilling to go through with it.

After activating his innate defense spell, Leylin was still unsatisfied and used his palm to stroke his neck.

A dark red light exploded from his neck, and like the scales, descended until it covered his entire body, forming something that seemed like armour.

Leylin was especially cautious when dealing with this fearsome Spirit Pollution. Not only had he activated his innate defense spell, he’d even

used his trump card, the Fallen Star Pendant.

Not only did the might of an ancient Loathsome Evil surpass that of a rank 1 Magus, Leylin was unsure of what the Spirit Slaying Sect's Magi had done to increase its strength, making it even more troublesome.

Leylin wasn't willing to risk anything—harm done to one's spirit was much more difficult to treat than flesh wounds!

At that moment, other than the red membrane layer, Leylin had also had activated his two main items for defence—Kemoyin's Scales and the Fallen Star Pendant.

Just as Leylin had finished his preparations, the light green haze had reached his location.

Bzzt!

The moment the haze enveloped him, Leylin suddenly felt faint. Immediately after, the red light in his sea of consciousness rippled, and the crystal in the centre sent out a wave of spiritual force, dispersing his giddiness.

Chik Chik!

The moment Leylin's outermost crimson layer of protection came into contact with the haze, the sound of an object being corroded could be heard. Within a few seconds, it was completely broken through.

Next, the phantom armour from Fallen Star Pendant started producing unbearable sounds, the energy from its reserves constantly being consumed.

"It hasn't gone through my defences, but to think that this was the effect of the spirit pollution!"

Leylin trained his eye on the Loathsome Evil that was gradually approaching, the fear in his expression becoming increasingly apparent.

"Roarr!"

Two thick arms suddenly grew from its back and touched the ground, supporting the Loathsome Evil.

With a burst of power, the Loathsome Evil's speed rapidly increased, and it dashed towards Leylin, slashing at his waist with the axe in his left hand!

Before that massive power reached him, the air in the atmosphere seemed to be compressed into crystals that hurtled towards Leylin!

With a gleam in his blue eyes, Leylin ducked through the crack in the axe by twisting his body at an unbelievable angle.

"Latent Fireball!"

After dodging this attack, Leylin looked around and saw that the garden had been almost completely engulfed by the green haze. Unless he killed this Loathsome Evil, it would have been impossible to pass through.

In any case, Leylin didn't believe that the ancient Magi would let him leave so easily.

Hence, Leylin struck back fiercely, using the spell that had the most might!

Boom!

Along with the syllables that flew out of Leylin's mouth, a large number of black fireballs suddenly appeared around the Loathsome Evil's figure.

These fireballs quickly merged into a single mass, its volume expanding to ten times the usual size, and exploded in front of the Loathsome Evil.

Black flames engulfed the Loathsome Evil, and many of its slim arms were broken off from the explosion.

Just from a single little black spark landing on the ground, a hole was melted that was so deep, one could not see how far down it went.

[Attacking target in the centre! Power of Latent Fireball: 51. Added bonus from elemental essence conversion: 21. Target's defense in its front has been destroyed! Received data readings!]

A prompt from the A.I. Chip sounded out.

Out of all the spells Leylin possessed, the Latent Fireball was a magic that was second only to the Eyes of Petrification. Currently, with the added

bonus from his elemental essence conversion, its degree of power was a terrifying total of 51!

Even an ancient monster like the Loathsome Evil could only tremble under the might of these flames!

[Beep! Loathsome Evil. Strength: 34. Agility: 19. Vitality: 40. Spiritual force: 25. Special Abilities: 1. Spirit Pollution. The Loathsome Evil will always be surrounded by Spirit Pollution similar to that emitted by ancient Magi. Once a spirit is infected, the creature will be cursed for eternity, and eventually wither away! 2. Devour: Loathsome Evil can heal injuries by consuming large amounts of flesh. At the same time, devouring large numbers of spirits will help the Loathsome Evil to evolve into stronger creatures!]

Seeing the data that the A.I. Chip had analysed, Leylin looked at the monster howling in pain within the dark flames with a sense of admiration.

“This power is comparable to that of a Magus with a 50% elemental essence conversion. If an army of Loathsome Evils is formed with an even more powerful leader taking charge, it’ll definitely be difficult for Magus organisations to handle it. They would need to escape...”

Leylin was admiring the Loathsome Evil, but this was still a battle, and Leylin instantly cast another Latent Fireball.

Countless black fireballs emerged from the shadows and rushed towards the large mass of flames, causing it to burn even more vigorously.

Although Leylin possessed an interest in this Loathsome Evil, he would only extract some tissues and fluids from it after its death. He was definitely not planning on catching it live.

Hence, after seeing that the Latent Fireball was effective, Leylin immediately produced large numbers of the black fireballs, determined to kill off the Loathsome Evil in one go!

“Grah!”

The Loathsome Evil within the flames roared terrifyingly as it trembled

on the floor, the many slim arms on its body melting and falling off.

Boom!!!

The black flames burnt through the Loathsome Evil's belly, and instantly, innumerable spirits escaped out of its stomach.

These spirits' faces were those of females and males of all ages, and most of these spirits were weirdly shaped. If they didn't have an extra hand on their faces, there would be an extra three legs on their bodies. Some even had various organs and structures stuck on their bodies and looked extremely similar to the Loathsome Evil.

The similarities between all of these spirits was a lifeless look in their eyes as if they had lost all intelligence.

"Don't tell me... This is a base where the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect creates Loathsome Evils?" Seeing this scene, Leylin compared his current conjectures with his previous guesses and came up with a conclusion.

These spirits mindlessly dithered around the Loathsome Evil and seemed to hardly be afraid of the black flames. They passed through without any trouble, and Leylin's expression darkened.

"This! Could it be that..." Leylin suddenly had an idea.

He immediately threw out several potions, and even mixed in pink pearls that were sure to cause damage to spirits!

However, it was too late.

With a high pitched cry from the Loathsome Evil, the surrounding spirits promptly blew up!

Boom!

The old witch's method used to explode spirits seemed to have appeared once again!

However, this explosion included potentially hundreds of spirits exploding at the same time. Its power far outstripped what the old witch had shown the previous time!

The black flames on the Loathsome Evil's body were extinguished in the explosion.

The waves from the frightening explosion hit Leylin.

Poof! The defensive layer from the Fallen Star Pendant suddenly flashed and fell apart like a soap bubble.

Leylin was sent flying, as if he had collided with the head of a train, and destroyed countless buildings as he fell back. There was a long line on the ground, tracing the path that he had been pushed back.

"Why didn't I detect such a frightening skill?" Leylin was startled and even a little angry.

[Detecting a force field that has been partitioned in a second defensive layer within the target's belly!]

A prompt from the A.I. Chip emerged once again.

Chapter 180: Sneak Attack

Although the A.I. Chip's ability had been upgraded and strengthened by many-fold, but within this strange Magus world, it was still not as good as he desired.

Due to the earlier mistake, Leylin was not in the mood to go and investigate.

And by now, the Loathsome Evil had already approached him to attack!

On the present vengeful spirit Loathsome Evil's body, the majority of its hands had been cut off and it still had many burnt black patches and within its belly, a large hole had been cut open. This exposed its intestines and other unknown organs.

But these did not affect the vengeful spirit Loathsome Evil's mobility.

On the contrary, to one's eyes, the Loathsome Evil appeared to emit a scarlet radiance. Compared to before, it seemed to have become more fiendish.

The veins on its body seemed to be intertwined and protruding out, and they were like cyan snakes that were twisted about each other as this Loathsome Evil came at Leylin.

Many of its body flesh and fat had become abnormal because it had been burnt, but its speed was faster than before.

"Fuck!"

The scales on Leylin's body trembled a bit and the dust and pebbles sticking to it fell to the ground.

Although the recent spirit explosion was violent, but after it passed through the defense of the Fallen Star Pendant, its damage power was reduced and then it was entirely resisted by the Kemoyin Scales on his body.

For the present, although Leylin's body received a tremendous jolt, he almost had no other injury.

At this moment, the giant Loathsome Evil attacked with a flying speed, while it unceasingly spread out waves of the spirit plague.

“Shadow Concealment!”

When Leylin saw this scene, his mouth continuously chanted the spell. At the same time, the scales on his body emitted a dark lustre. As this dark light passed through him, his body became rather transparent.

Soon, the giant Loathsome Evil collided with the shadow of Leylin and went past and shattered a rotten flower pot that was behind Leylin, which burst into pieces.

During this time period of more than a year, Leylin, using the accumulated contribution points, exchanged them for many spell models. So here, Leylin utilised the Shadow Concealment spell of which he had a profound impression.

Before, within the Dylan Gardens, the Black Horrall Snake’s attacks made it an unforgettable event for Leylin.

If it hadn’t been for his natural cautiousness and also the fact that the additional firepower from his comrades, the outcome of the battle with the Black Horrall Snake would have turned out different.

After that time, he began to be interested in the Darkness element stealth spells. Eventually, when he was exchanging his contribution points within the Four Seasons Garden, he happened to discover these spell models.

[Darkness element’s Shadow Concealment. Rank 1 spell. Its effects are: After the Magus cast this spell, he could hide within the crack of the shadow world and he would be immune to the attacks that happen in the real world. Time of concealment: 20s Elemental essence conversion bonus: 14s. It consumes a spiritual force of 10 and magic power of 10.]

This spell was entirely complementing his elemental affinity. Besides, the Kemoyin’s Scales on Leylin’s body also seemed to have magnified the effect of this spell.

Therefore, Leylin had expended a great deal of effort into learning this

spell.

And after this spell, he had no longer any weak points with regards to his agility and concealment.

Leylin thoroughly took in the sensation of being in concealment.

This was a very strange feeling – time flowed as if it had been slowed by a tenfold. The surrounding atmosphere also felt very constricting. Each of Leylin's movement needed to consume even more strength than when he was in normal environments.

Leylin glanced at the Loathsome Evil.

It was now giving vent to its fury on the land surrounding it, as it had lost its original target.

The Loathsome Evil, by chopping with its huge hatchet, carved out many ditches in the surroundings, causing them to be in a complete mess.

Leylin noticed that the body of Loathsome Evil had a strange green tint to it – no, that's not it all, even the surrounding scenery, land and atmosphere was being polluted by a shining green mist. This green mist was very dense – it even made Leylin feel dizzy and he felt the sensation of wanting to throw-up.

Leylin's body felt as if it was hovering in mid-air; it slowly floated towards the Loathsome Evil.

The Loathsome Evil seemed to sense something and brandished the enormous hatchet in its left hand; as it did so, the enormous orange yellow hatchet swung at Leylin's waist.

If Leylin was currently in his physical form, he would already have been chopped into two halves.

But the current him was just a shadow in reality. When the enormous hammer swung past, his body just wavered.

The giant Loathsome Evil frantically brandished its hatchet. It often struck at Leylin's body, but not even a single piece of the clothing Leylin wore was torn.

It came closer... and closer!

Leylin kept himself in the sliding position and hovered above the Loathsome Evil's. When he looked down, he could see the constantly secreted yellow pus of the Loathsome Evil and the disordered teeth in its large mouth.

Swish!

With a flash of a black shadow, Leylin directly appeared in front of the Loathsome Evil.

Currently, Leylin's pupils had already changed to an amber colour, seemingly giving a peculiar gaze.

"Look into my eyes!" Leylin spoke with a strange tone as it brought a hissing sound with it. It was as though a snake was speaking.

Innate spell – the Eye of Petrification!!!

That voice seemed to carry a weird power. The Loathsome Evil couldn't help but look into Leylin's eyes with a bizarre expression.

Creak! Creak!

A greyish white halo started to shoot out from the Loathsome Evil's eyes and its face seemed to be constantly expanding.

"Roar!"

When the petrification effect had affected the entire head of the Loathsome Evil, it suddenly raised its head and roared.

Following the roar, the Loathsome Evil's flesh bulged. There was also two enormous solid flesh that suddenly appeared on its shoulder. It looked like it had grown two arms.

While its flesh was transforming, the greyish skin on the Loathsome Evil face's shedded. It was like a snake shedding its skin.

[The target's physique is too large. It is starting to develop immunity to the petrification! Based on current situation, remaining time it will stay rigid: 3 seconds!]

The A.I. Chip gave out a notification.

As expected, the movement of the Loathsome Evil slowed down. It opened its mouth and maintained an eccentric smiling expression. It was like a machine that had not yet been wound up, making it stop in a peculiar condition.

“This is a great opportunity!”

Leylin’s eyes lit up. Numerous black fireballs entered the Loathsome Evil’s mouth, causing continuous explosions within its body.

“Falling Star Pendant! Activate the remaining power!”

Leylin shouted and a faint red light ray appeared beneath his neck.

When the light ray consolidated in Leylin’s hand, it formed a long blade.

Leylin stared at the Loathsome Evil and with a roar, the muscles on its arm bulged, expanding a few folds. It instantly made changed from a lean youth to a muscular man.

Leylin’s body was filled with an explosive power at this moment.

He raised the blade with both his hand and leaped highly and performed a jump slash against the neck of the Loathsome Evil that was still burning with black flames!

Gurgle! Splat

The yellowish green pus splattered everywhere. Simultaneously, the enormous head of the Loathsome Evil directly rolled onto the ground.

After losing its head, the Loathsome Evil’s four limbs were still moving. It was as though it was trying to flee.

Leylin’s eyes was serene as he constantly tossed out streaks of purple medicine that landed on the enormous body and head of the Loathsome Evil.

Boom!

A purplish red flame started to violently ignite.

The flame enveloped the Loathsome Evil’s body and head.

Crack! The head of the Loathsome Evil split apart and a group of grotesque-looking spirits appeared.

However, Leylin was already prepared for that as he tossed a pink gemstone into the flames, while constantly chanting.

The unconscious spirits were attracted to the pink crystal. They forgot to self destruct and just surrounded in front of the pink gemstone with their faces expressing reminiscing expression.

“Success! With the previous calculations by the A.I. Chip, the Derkoff Spirit Enticing Spell has been upgraded!”

Excitement flashed past Leylin’s face. He then rapidly carved runes and incantations on the ground around the flames, and constantly tossed various materials into the flame.

Finally, the purplish red flame already changed completely into a pure purple colour. The group of spirits were constantly dissolving, they were melting like heated wax.

At this moment, a lot of the spirits wanted to self-destruct!

“Activate!” Looking at the densely-packed spirits, Leylin’s lips curled up into a smile as he chanted the incantation.

Boom! A red halo lit up from the array, restraining all of the spiritual energy within the flame.

That light ray seemed to restrict the spirits from self-destructing. The spirits within expressed frantic expressions despite them being emotionless existences, and not a single one of them could self-destruct as they did before.

Mournful and piercing screams constantly rang in his ears.

Leylin could even feel the most painful wail from the Loathsome Evil.

While the purple flames were constantly burning, a strange smell constantly spread.

The Loathsome Evil’s corpse that was at the center of the flame had already stopped moving. Moreover, under the effect of flames, from its fat

body, a fatty, oily and viscous liquid began to flow down and around the surface of its body.

This fluid was extremely viscous and its colour was an odd black.

As that black, oily liquid constantly flowed, the corpse of the Loathsome Evil gradually became smaller, as though it was shrinking.

The ten-meter-long, enormous body started to shrink to the height of an ordinary person and finally became a monkey-like form with wrinkled body.

“This.....”

Leylin looked transfixed at the constantly shrinking head of the Loathsome Evil.

When the head was completely dehydrated, an ordinary head appeared before Leylin’s eyes.

Even though the skin was filled with creases, Leylin was able to recognise that this was a head of a western, middle-aged man, aged roughly 30 years or near about.

“It looks like the main ingredient in making this Loathsome Evil’s body is a human body. Moreover, the manufacturing of its huge body is by inserting an enormous amount of crazed spirits into the human body and making them fuse together.....”

This method made Leylin felt as though the human body was a womb and was nurturing something.

“The fusion rate with the human body was extremely high as those Loathsome Evils were originally human spirits. It’s unknown how the Spirit Slaying Sect was able to solve the problem in fusing the spirits into the body. It’s the key skill!”

Leylin’s thoughts constantly revolved.

He had a feeling that this wasn’t the final stage in the experiment on this Loathsome Evil.

The frantic spirits would finally breakout from the body after

undergoing constant fusion with the body of the Loathsome Evil. They would get much stronger as they grow, creating a more sinister being in existence!

Chapter 181: Living Organism No. 1

Leylin was watching the process of the Loathsome Evil coming together.

The spirit within the array was finally incinerated as the purple flame gradually extinguished.

Swish! The entire light ray from the spell formation completely shattered.

Leylin walked into the formation.

The smell of something burning wafted in the air, along with a repulsive stench that could make one feel nauseous.

“This odour is just like when something from the sewers is burnt!” Leylin frowned and walked to the center.

The human corpses had long since been burnt to ashes.

On the ground, in the middle of the charred and indented formation, a glistening object caught Leylin’s eye.

Lying in the pit were fragments of green crystals, sparkling and splendid like little diamonds.

Leylin covered his hand with a layer of scales and grabbed ahold of the little diamonds.

“Quite light, but very solid!” Leylin kept applying pressure using his palm to the point that his joints popped, but even with his strength of 7.1, he was still unable to do anything to the little diamonds.

“...” All of a sudden, a low chant of salutations entered Leylin’s ear, seeming to have been produced from within the green diamonds.

Filled with curiosity, Leylin brought the diamonds closer to his ear.

“Thank you, young man!”

In an instant, a dazzling white light seemed to fill the entire flower garden. In the white light, Leylin looked at tens of thousands of phantom human figures.

The countenances of these phantoms seemed familiar; they were the spirit bodies of earlier, but they had assumed their original form of a human.

The phantoms were both male and female. Some of them were dressed like Magi and acolytes. However, at this moment, they expressed gentle smiles as they slowly faded in the white light.

“En!” Leylin looked at the surroundings. As if it was due to the death of the Loathsome Evil, the green coloured plague quickly retreated, once again revealing the flower garden.

As for the spirit bodies from earlier, they had all disappeared without a trace, as if he were just dreaming.

However, Leylin knew that he wasn’t hallucinating.

At this moment, the A.I. Chip’s voice rang out.

[Scan complete! Item identified as spirit crystals! This is the essence remaining after the ignition of a huge amount of spirits!] In ancient compendiums, these were one of the many favourite currencies that many experts in different planes liked to use.

“Spirit crystals!” Leylin understood.

He had heard about this item before, but only high-level Magi could effectively use them.

It was impossible for a mere rank 1 Magus to break the surface of a spirit crystal to extract a spirit’s power from within.

“No matter what, it will definitely be useful in the future!” Leylin picked up the green coloured spirit crystals littered on the floor, carefully placing them inside a small pouch. He even used a gold thread to seal the pouch, before placing it back in his robes.

The green spirit plague had completely vanished. Many fine cracks that looked like lizards littered the black rock walls at the edge of the garden.

Leylin walked in front of the cracks, and gently knocked on the fractured wall!

Crash!

Numerous stones fell, and large clouds of lime were thrown into the air. There was a deep hole in the wall, which was flickering with pitch black light rays.

A black glint of light flashed through his eyes.

He quickly plucked off a strand of his hair, and his mouth began to move as he chanted mysterious incantations.

The long black hair fell to the ground and constantly expanded, eventually turning into something that resembled a black snake.

This small snake had densely packed scales and a pair of red little eyes that looked like jewels. It was pocket sized, and did not look malevolent; on the contrary, it was rather adorable.

The little snake first coiled around Leylin, hissing its tongue. It licked Leylin's shoes and then slithered into the pitch black crevice.

Leylin shut both his eyes, maintaining a connection with the little snake through a thread of spiritual force. Images and sounds were projected before Leylin's eyes.

The lighting in the surroundings was very dim, but it wasn't a problem for the little black snake.

Through the eyes of the black snake, Leylin could see that the interior of the crevice looked like an ore mine with huge amounts of roots creeping in the surroundings.

The roots intertwined across the walls as if they were covering the surroundings of the cave like a fishnet.

The little snake continued to traverse into the cave. After slithering for about a kilometer, the little snake reached a yellow tree root that was like a wall that blocked its path.

"This is... a Misleading Mist Tree Root, an ancient defensive system to deter intruders!"

Leylin's heart was filled with glee. With the appearance of such a

mechanism, it showed that he was nearing the experiment lab.

“Intruder! Answer one question of mine, or else you’ll be ripped into pieces!” from the large trunk of the tree, the face of an old man emerged. The old man stared into the little snake’s eyes as if it could see Leylin, who was controlling it.

“Ask!” Leylin gave off a wave of spiritual force through the little black snake. “Please state your question!” Leylin gave off his spiritual energy force directly through the black little snake.

“What has the face of a diamond, eyes like pearls, and in the winter, the maker of this object gives it a chance to reincarnate?”

“Hmm...” Leylin lowered his head, looking to be deep in thought. Though, in actuality, he was commanding, “A.I. Chip! Search database!”

[Beep! According to the clues provided to the Host, items that fit the description are: 1. Gemstone Starfish. Similarity: 97%. 2. Ocean Bed Sunflower: 78%. 3...]

The A.I. chip instantly gave the result.

“It’s the Gemstone Starfish!” The snake said in front of the Misleading Mist Tree Root.

“Correct!” The Misleading Mist Tree Root let out an ear piercing holler. Like pulling out a radish from the ground, the tree’s roots were uplifted, revealing the pathway behind it.

“As a reward, you now have the authority to go through!” The countenance of the old man on the Misleading Mist Tree Root revealed a smile.

“A reward, huh? I don’t think so!”

The small snake shook its head and climbed through the passage.

Pa! In an instant, a giant tree root, like a huge palm, blocked the small snake’s path ahead.

“I have permitted the Magus behind you to go, but not a magical creature like you!” Anger welled up on the old face of the root.

“Young Magus, are you belittling me?”

“It is a part of me, so I believe it has the right to enter!” The little snake raised its head, making eye contact with the giant face.

“No! You must personally come over!” The Misleading Mist Tree Root was stubborn in this aspect.

“If that’s the case...” The little black snake lowered its head as if pondering over something.

Suddenly, the little snake coiled up and immediately darted through the passage.

Pa!

Suddenly, there were numerous bolts of black lightning that flashed into the originally peaceful pathway .Those flashes looked alive as they struck towards the little snake.

In the sea of sparks, the little snake was burnt to a crisp.

“It’s a trap indeed! Grade 51 and higher Black Prison Thunder, and there’s so much of it. The tree root really invested a lot in this attack...”

Outside the entrance to the garden, Leylin looked towards the mud tunnel and smiled mockingly.

This Misleading Mist Tree Root was just a trap in the first place! Even if an intruder got the answer correct, he or she would still be lured into a trap.

It was a pity that after so many years, there was something wrong with the Misleading Mist Tree Root’s intelligence. Leylin felt that something was wrong because it seemed to be much too anxious.

No matter how good a trap was, once it was found out, it was just another joke.

At this moment, a strong tremor came from the tunnel that Leylin stood in front of. There was even an ancient voice, “I’ll kill you! I’m going to kill you, intruder!”

The walls of the ore mine seemed to be propped up by the roots of the tree. As they struggled to come out, it caused a huge chain reaction.

“This creature’s vitality and strength are most likely above that of the Loathsome Evil. Moreover, as it is a plant, its life force is extremely tenacious, and it has resistances against spiritual force attacks. It’ll be much more difficult to deal with than the Loathsome Evil, so if I was to fight it on its own territory inside the ore mine, as long as it would be willing, it could bury me alive at any time!”

Leylin pondered before raising his head, grinning mischievously.

“It’s a pity, however, that such a plant organism like that has a strong weakness to something I have recently developed in the lab! I’ll use it now!”

Leylin took out a nitrogen crystallised test-tube from the sack that he carried. There were no potions inside the test-tube. There was only a black organism on the bottom with a pair of translucent wings as if it was an insect.

After looking at this item, Leylin’s expression became serious.

“I don’t know if letting this thing out will be good or bad, but I have to give it a try....”

Leylin muttered to himself.

This was an item that he had unintentionally created.

Inside the test-tube was a type of termite found only in the Magus World. Leylin had discovered it while getting rid of the pests inside the Four Seasons Garden.

As the sequence of genes was different from other termites, they were extremely strong, and hence, were taken back by Leylin, who had later discovered a secret.

These termites had an extremely strange gene that will exponentially increase their life force and reproductive capabilities.

That speed was already beyond what was natural. Judging from Leylin’s

knowledge, this should have been made up of poisons and cells from another world.

After many instances of failing, Leylin could only increase the abilities of these termites with the help of the microscopic capabilities of the A.I. Chip, turning them into a weapon to deal with plant organisms!

It seemed like now was the right time to use it.

“Come! Let me see what happens when the strange items of the Magus world are coupled with modern scientific skills!”

[Host is about to release Living Organism No. 1! According to the settings, please input the parameters for self-destruction!]

At this time, the A.I. chip replied again.

“5 minutes!”

Leylin put a thread of his spiritual force into the test-tube, after which, he put several drops of another red potion into it as if making his final preparations.

After that, he looked at the shaking tunnel. The Misleading Mist Tree Root was still writhing around, trying to reach him.

“Enjoy your death now!”

Leylin sneered, opened the test tube, and directed the termite into the hole.

*

1. Refers to the relative level of danger to the Leylin's current stats.

Chapter 182: Experiment Lab #1

“A.I. Chip! Record the data, and create a folder on the experiment’s results!”

While Leylin released the termite, he pressed on his temple with one of his hands, making a bright blue light shoot out from his eyes, and shine directly into the hole.

Under Leylin’s observation, the termite directly climbed on top of a tree root after being freed.

The termite was like a speck of dust compared to the enormous Misleading Mist Tree Root, so it didn’t arouse the attention of the massive tree.

[Living Organism No. 1 showing violent growth, and starting to propagate!]

In the graphic shown by the A.I. Chip, the termite, which was represented by a red dot, stayed on the yellow brown roots for a while, before its life force began to increase tremendously, turning into a bright crimson red dot. Furthermore, many small dots began to appear in the graphic, scattering throughout the roots.

It seemed to have a domino effect. When the red light intensified, it grew from covering a root to instantly covering the entire wall, and drew close to the Misleading Mist Tree Root.

“What is this...Argh...”

Following which, the Misleading Mist Tree Root’s screams could be heard throughout the garden.

Leylin could still hear the dense, hair raising, terrifying screams while he was at the entrance of the hole.

As for the termites, they had now filled the entire body of the Misleading Mist Tree Root.

What seemed like billions of termites began to open their incisors, and

mercilessly chomped down on the roots. Within only a couple of minutes, the Misleading Mist Tree Root was riddled with holes.

The Misleading Mist Tree Root's screams become weaker, until it finally came to a stop.

.....

Buzz Buzz...

The sound of flapping wings could be heard. A large cloud of termites was seen flying out from the hole. They were like locusts, devouring the remaining plants in the garden.

After devouring all of the plants, the flying termites began to buzz in fury.

[Alert! Alert! Intense energy waves emitting from the organisms' spiritual force. Previously inputted spiritual force has failed, termites entering a frenzied state!]

As the A.I. Chip called out, all of the flying termites began to mysteriously stop as they turned to Leylin, looking at him with bloodshot eyes.

"As expected, impromptu experiments are always filled with surprises. However, it's a pity that time is up!" Leylin was smiling.

When the A.I. Chip's countdown timer of 5 minutes reached 0, all of the termites, which were still flaunting their might, fell to the ground, losing all signs of life.

In the blink of an eye, there was a thick layer of termite corpses on the ground.

This was the security system that Leylin had inputted. It seemed to have an excellent effect.

"These things are filled with unknown characteristics! It seems that I'll still need a lot of experiments on it before I can use it practically....."

After which, Leylin picked up several of the termites' corpses to keep as specimens, before walking into the mud tunnel, which had mostly

collapsed.

Very soon, he came to where the Misleading Mist Tree Root originally stood. It was a pity, however, that it was now only filled with mud and the remnants of a husk. All traces of the huge tree root's countenance had also disappeared.

"A lot of effort must have been put into this trap!"

Leylin looked at the black tunnel that the Misleading Mist Tree Root had used as bait. The inside of the tunnel was littered with many charred termite corpses.

From the looks of it, they didn't die from the self-destruction coded into their genes, but from the trap laid inside the tunnel.

As for where the Misleading Mist Tree Root once stood, there was another bronze coloured path.

The pathway seemed to be formed using ceramic. It looked extremely crude, but had a unique, good feeling about it.

As for the path, there was even a line of ancient Byron characters, "Tunnel to Experiment Lab #1! Top secret! Only authorized personnel allowed!"

The blood red words made Leylin shudder.

"This material....."

Leylin touched the bronze coloured ceramic wall. He felt that the material used to make this wall was extremely sturdy. Also, it gave him a similar feeling to the Blood Sobbing Alloy inside the Dylan Gardens. They were both used to isolate spiritual force energy waves.

"If this is really what I think it is, the item that is locked in here must be remarkable!"

The insecurities in Leylin's heart reached the max.

He cocked his head and pondered, not daring to enter recklessly. Instead, he found an empty space, and took out various items from his robes, creating a strange formation. The appearance of this formation was

extremely strange, looking like an inverted “J.” Afterwards, Leylin also carved a similar rune on his robes.

“It seems that I’m really fearful of death!” Leylin’s insecurities lessened after arranging the formation. He mocked himself as he entered the tunnel.

The bronze coloured pathway wasn’t long, and Leylin quickly reached its depths.

There was a small hall and in front of it, there was a black metal door, which was extremely tall, and over 4 meters wide.

On the metal door frame, there were various magic runes with the words ‘Experiment Lab #1. Supervisor: Edward’ written on it.

The words on the metal door were obviously very old, as there was some dust on it, and it looked slightly beaten.

When Leylin was in front of the doors, two figures entered his field of view

After seeing them, Leylin took the initiative to go forth. “Old Devil and Jaye, where’s Brass Ring?”

The old witch and Jaye were the ones that had appeared in front of Experiment Lab #1, while Brass Ring’s location was unknown.

“We stepped into a trap set up by the ancient Magi that caused us to become lost! In the trap, every time when we thought our partners were beside us, we had actually been separated and had gone further apart...”

The old witch replied, “When the trap activated, and the four of us entered the different pathways, I was met with a sound illusion that was arranged by the ancient Magi....After an intense battle, I found this place, and met up with Jaye. Her experiences were similar to mine....”

Leylin nodded his head, after which he briefly stated his encounters. As for his abilities and spells, he had naturally glossed over the narration of that area.

He then said, “In this case, we should just wait for Brass Ring...”

“We don’t have to anymore! I can sense that Brass Ring is already dead!” Jaye spoke abruptly, causing Leylin to feel somewhat shocked.

This fellow, who seemed like a female, had seldom spoken ever since the group was formed. She also seemed to be rather close to the old witch, yet her energy waves were not very strong, just at the level of an average rank 1 Magus.

But now...

Leylin could not help but to look at Jaye.

Even though Jaye was still wearing a black cloak, her cloak was tattered. It seemed to bear traces of her battle.

Apart from that, the energy waves from Jaye’s body were fluctuating at an unsteady rate. Sometimes, they had the strength of a peak rank 1 Magus, while at other times, it felt like a fledgling rank 1 Magus who had just advanced. At other times, it would intensify greatly, keeping Leylin guessing.

“Jaye had learned and remembered an extremely special rank 1 spell. We were able to estimate the timing of the death of the magus, so we decided to wait for you here!”

Jaye seemed rather antisocial, and she would not speak unless it was of the utmost importance. Everything else was explained by the old witch.

“Is that right?” Leylin was a little doubtful, as the rank 1 magic of the Magus World was extremely peculiar. There was an unknown amount of Magi that built on spells that their ancestors had created or modified in order to create many different unique spells to be passed down, so Leylin wasn’t able to make a decision regarding what the Old Witch had said.

“Since you’re here, let’s take a short break before attempting to enter this Experiment Lab #1!”

The old witch seemed rather zealous. “I have a feeling that the altar I need is right inside!”

Leylin was somewhat speechless. This old witch appeared too impatient.

However, he still walked forward, and touched the black metal door.

Upon contact, an icy cold feeling could be felt as first, before a hotter temperature was felt. As for the sturdy metal door, it gave off a feeling of being indestructible.

From the runes and incantation on the door, Leylin could feel that this room was not used for experiments, but as a prison of some sort.

There was a brass keyhole at the center of the black door. The ethereal keyhole made Leylin's hair stand on end, and he felt a bone freezing chilliness.

"I can't fully understand the runes on this door, but I'm still able to make out the general meaning of some of the high levelled runes. There is a high levelled solidifying rune, and a metal memory rune. To break open this door, we will have to spend a lot of energy. Perhaps, we should try to find the key!"

Leylin suggested.

"There's no need for that! It's here with me!" The old witch cackled, withdrawing an extremely thick yellow bronze key from her robes.

This key was rather curvy, as if it was a ladle, but it was a perfect fit for the keyhole on the door.

The old witch took the bronze key, and inserted it into the door.

"Wait a minute!" At this moment, a figure appeared in front of her.

"Blood Rogue, what are you doing?" The old witch looked at Leylin, who was blocking her, rage evident on her face.

Jaye immediately stood behind the old witch at this moment. The magic rays emitted from her body caused Leylin's eyelid to twitch.

"It's nothing much, I just feel that the danger within has somewhat exceeded my expectations. I wish to withdraw!" Leylin was extremely calm.

"According to the information I've seen, this Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect has been the advocate behind the scenes of many ancient calamities.

Moreover, it had been undergoing extremely dangerous spirit research...”

Leylin’s expression was extremely sincere as he continued to talk.
“Therefore, I suggest that we temporarily stop this exploration, and attempt to explore again after gaining much greater powers....”

Chapter 183: A Mountain of White Bones

When the old witch heard Leylin's words, she started at the black haired handsome youth before saying with a dry and hoarse voice.

"I've known you for almost two years and didn't know that you were such a cowardly Magus."

Leylin had given her the impression that he was extremely crazy and daring. He would do anything to reach his goals and did everything without restraints.

"A Magus's life is extremely long so two years isn't a long time. Moreover, to give up after knowing it's dangerous isn't a cowardly action....."

Leylin smiled.

"That is to say that you are unwilling to continue on no matter what?" The old witch asked.

"...." Silence was his response.

Pang! The old witch didn't say anything, but Jaye, who was behind her immediately made her move.

A green-coloured hurricane instantly swept past the area Leylin was.

Pa! Constant clear sounds were heard.

Following that, a black flame exited the hurricane, which burned half of the small hall and was heading towards Jaye.

"Hmph!" Jaye coldly snorted. Her cloak fluttered without any wind as black energy particles were raised.

When the flame and the energy particles collided against each other in the air, an intense explosion occurred.

Jaye's body shook and was forced three steps back. The aura from her body became unstable.

"Enough!" The old witch shielded Jaye, with green light rays being

emitted from her eyes.

With Leylin's high leveled observation skills, he knew that she was frantically warning him. He currently didn't want to go against this old witch so Leylin smiled before moving to the side and eradicated the energy waves that was being emitted from his body.

"Jaye, you too. I'm great friends with Blood Rogue. You don't have to be so wary of him." When the old witch saw that Leylin moved to the side, the green rays from her eyes also dimmed before she said that to Jaye who was behind her.

"I understand!" Jaye answered softly.

"Blood Rouge, even though we haven't been together for long, we should know each other's personality. State whatever terms you have!"

The progress of the situation was slightly beyond what Leylin had expected.

He originally thought that with the powers that he had displayed and unintentional fight against the old witch, she should reasonably make him leave or explore other places.

Leylin was a reasonable person. He knew that the experiment lab was dangerous and there wasn't anything worth his attention so he naturally didn't want to risk it.

However, currently, the Experiment Lab 1 obviously needed his help in opening or to get there so the old witch had to lower her temper.

"To prove your sincerity, you've to firstly give me the second half content on the data regarding the compressing spiritual powers!" Leylin straightforwardly stated a condition.

"No problem!" The old witch tossed a green leaf towards Leylin without a single thought.

When Leylin caught it, the A.I. Chip pointed out that it had received a lot of information and images.

From the A.I. Chip's judgment, this data should be the remaining

portion of the data she had given from before.

“I shall also include this! How is that? Will that suffice you to risk yourself?”

When the old witch saw that Leylin had caught up in muttering to himself irresolutely, she tossed a black bag at him.

“These items can also tempt some of the peak rank 1 Magus and has high success rates. What do you say?”

Leylin opened the bag and looked slightly moved.

Following that, he looked at the old witch. “I’ll accompany you and risk my life with you on behalf of these two years of relationship. However, if I find that something is wrong, we’ll retreat straight away and I won’t continue to participate in this in the future.....”

“That’s naturally the case!” The old witch agreed.

After that, she walked past Leylin to insert the bronze key into the lock.

Clang! Dong!

Clang! Dong!

The sound of gears turning could be heard as the old witch turned the key.

The sound was weak at the start, but it got stronger after that. Finally, the entire hall was filled with sounds of gears coming into contact with each other.

Creak!

Streaks of cracks appeared on the black metal door. After a few cracks appeared, it rapidly segregated into countless little black metal pieces. The black metals flew to the sides, revealing the scene of the Experiment Lab #1.

Corpses! What Leylin could only see was countless white human bone remains.

The densely packed bones were layered, forming a small mountain of

white bones.

After that, a rotting odour that had been there for many years, accompanied by the scent of death, rotten flesh and negative energy particles that were so dense and couldn't be separated, turned into a black wave rising forth towards the three of them.

This was the Experiment Lab #1 inside the secret plane of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect. It actually formed a scene of the massacre of numerous people.

A black light flashed from Leylin's body to confront the huge, energy-filled wave, making him happily gulp in a few mouthfuls of air.

This was the best environment for someone like – a dark Magus that specialised in the cultivation of Darkness energy particles! Not only would the consumption of his spiritual force and magic power were lower when casting his spells in this environment, but the degree of power his spells could produce would be slightly stronger.

“As expected....It's the same as the records!”

The old witch and Jaye were already prepared as they opened a scroll, where a fiery red shield enveloped them.

The ash-colored negative energy particles constantly surged against the exterior of the shield, but they were burned out by the fire energy particles.

Once the wave had receded, the old witch seemed to not have sustain any injuries. She currently was just staring fixatedly at the mountain of white bones with excitement shown in her eyes.

“According to the information recorded, the altar I need is at the summit of this mountain of white bones.”

The old witch climbed up, using the white bones as her path.

Crack!

The white bones that had existed for an unknown period of time crumbled into powder under her steps, forming an extremely thick layer.

Leylin and Jaye followed slowly behind her.

While Leylin walked, he fiddled with the bones on the ground. Even though many bones had utterly rotted, there were still some complete bones.

Currently, Leylin was detailedly observing a white bone that was slightly thicker than the ones in the surroundings.

“From the shape of this bone, it should be human’s right thigh!” Leylin gauged the weight of the bone in his hand.

“It’s very heavy and this bone clearly had transformed as this isn’t something an ordinary person will have!”

“A.I. Chip! Investigate its content!”

A faint blue light was emitted from Leylin’s eyes.

“Beep! Beginning sample data collection and comparing the carbon elements within the bone!”

The A.I. Chip gave its answer, “This right thigh bone is from a person of the Knight rank. Its age is about 5341 years.....”

“The Knight rank?”

Leylin surveyed his surroundings.

At the bottom of this mountain of white bones, its perimeter was the largest and had the most number of bones, but the majority of them were ordinary human bones. There were very few Knight ranked bones.

Following the climb up, there appeared to be Knight ranked bones everywhere. Leylin even found a Grand Knight’s bone.

When they were halfway up the mountain, it was completely filled with Knight and Grand Knight’s bones. There were even some acolytes’ bones.

A Magus’s body had a certain concentration of radiation. It was easy to see that even from the bones.

The old witch and Jaye were indefinitely bewildered from the start and took in a cold breath after seeing these bones.

“From the form, there must be at least 20,000 or more acolytes’ bones buried here and an unknown number of bones belonging to official Magi...”

Leylin released the breath he was holding. “It’s really something on a large scale that can be collected only in ancient times!”

Similarly, he also knew why the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect was annihilated.

No matter what was the reason, killing these many Magi would definitely attract the crowd’s rage. This was different from massacring ordinary people, which resulted in them being severely punished!

The three Magi couldn’t help, but to slow their steps after realising this.

As expected, while they neared the summit, they found numerous official Magi’s corpses!

At the summit, there were often partially rotten corpses and the robe on them could be seen distinctly. Some weren’t rotten as much so they looked as though they were just sleeping.

Moreover, from the radiation emitted from the remnants of the ancient magicians, it was way beyond that of the acolytes. Some of the remaining aura even made Leylin fearful of them.

“There unexpectedly are some bones that hadn’t entirely rotted.....” The old witch exclaimed.

“The environment was extremely sealed and they seemed to have had anti-rotting measures. Moreover, these Magi aren’t ordinary people so from the circumstances.....”

Leylin calmly replied.

He was currently stepping on a female Magus’s charming face. That Magus’ face had extremely perfected structure with fine eyelashes. Her beautiful eyes could be seen clearly. It was imaginable that this Magus was a rare beauty in the ancient time, but Leylin stepped on her face without any hesitation. It looked just as if he was stepping on stones.

At the current position, the mountain of white bones had become a mountain of corpses and if Leylin and the rest wanted to continue, there had to constantly step on the corpses of the ancient Magi.

“This is blasphemy! Bare naked profaneness! These crazy fellows of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, they disrespect the honor of the Magi!”

It was beyond Leylin’s expectation that Jaye, who was the most antisocial in the group, was the first to condemn their crimes.

“That’s right! However, in ancient times, power decides everything! These Magi were caught by the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect so they had to bear with the outcome.....”

Leylin said.

As a Magus, it was natural to feel a tinge of regret for his fallen fellow Magi. However, in the current Magus World, was this not commonplace?

“Stop bickering. We’re here!”

The old witch that was heading forth in a daze suddenly stopped. Her voice was rueful, but it contained more ferventness and longing!

Chapter 184: The Awakening

Upon hearing her words, Leylin looked up in surprise.

Unconsciously, they had already reached the peak of the mountain of white bones.

Here, it was completely deserted except for the white altar at the peak of the mountain.

If one looked closely, it could be seen that the altar was made entirely out of human bones. These bones emitted energy fluctuations that far exceeded that of a rank 1 Magus and below, and just the aura made the air stifling, even for Leylin.

On some bones that were wider, there were strange runes handwritten in blood.

These runes were extremely complicated. Some were similar to 3D images, and Leylin had never seen any of them before.

What struck him the most was how, even though the runes had existed for over five thousand years, the blood was bright red and still looked fresh, as if ready to drip to the ground.

They were arranged in a strange manner and seemed to form a map.

Leylin took a closer look and realised that he recognised several of the areas in the secret plane. Filled with ecstasy, he immediately got the A.I. Chip to record everything down.

At the very centre of the altar, there was an odd skull used as a sacrifice.

The skull was similar to that of a human's skull, but on the cranium, there were two black, bent horns like that of a goat.

Also, in the middle of the two horns, there was a small round hole that seemed to serve no purpose.

"Is this the spirit altar you were looking for?"

Leylin glanced at the old witch, but her eyes were already fixed on the altar. She was murmuring words in a language that he did not know, and

seemed to have forgotten about the existence of the others with her.

What made Leylin more surprised was Jaye, who was beside him. Even with the cover of the huge black cloak, Leylin could tell she was shivering badly.

This discovery worried Leylin, and at the same time, a sense of unease in his heart was intensified.

“It’s here. Right here... My darling, I can now help you...”

While mumbling incessantly, the old witch produced a fragment of a piece of parchment and threw it towards the altar.

At the same time, Jaye, who had been shaking all this while, suddenly made her move!

Streams of translucent, faintly green rays of light descended from the heavens and formed a large net, aiming for Leylin. The surrounding air produced a hissing sound, and there seemed to be some undulations in the scenery around them.

“What are you doing?”

Leylin bellowed, though his expression did not undergo much changes.

It was apparent that he had been expecting something like this, and had thus made some preparations.

Boom!

On Leylin’s head, countless black strands of hair seemed to have lives of their own as they wriggled to counter the approaching green net.

Pu Pu!

The instant the half transparent green net and the black strands of hair met, large amounts of white gas emerged, and the sound of corrosion constantly erupted in the air.

With a wave of his hair, Leylin’s figure flickered and he shifted over ten metres away from his original spot.

“Madori Defensive Spell Formation!” Jaye, who was in the black cloak,

was well aware that Leylin's power surpassed hers. She had acted first in order to gain the upperhand.

While Leylin was dealing with that large net, Jaye had already fixed up a defensive formation around the spirit altar!

"Activate!" Along with Jaye's words, translucent black rays rose around the spirit altar, keeping the altar, Jaye and the old witch protected inside.

"Latent Fireball!" With a flash of Leylin's eyes, countless black fireballs emerged from the shadows, rushing towards the black dome!

Bang!

The numerous black fireballs converged and its volume expanded by more than ten times. With the added bonus of Leylin's elemental essence conversion of 70%, its might had become exceedingly horrifying.

Under this level of attack, an ordinary Magus' innate defensive spell would be completely destroyed within seconds!

The black flames spread, and even with Jaye within the dome trying her very best to maintain it, it was still vibrating vigorously, as if on the verge of breaking.

However, Jaye was unperturbed and chanted a few incantations.

Buzz buzz! From the bottom of the altar, a circle of black light emerged, merging with the defensive spell formation.

Peng!

With the addition of this circle of light, the entire defensive spell formation immediately became more radiant. Its colour was black to the extreme, and it was almost impossible to see the figures behind the formation.

Flames from the Latent Fireball burnt at the surface of the dome for over ten seconds.

But when facing the reinforced defensive spell formation, they could do little but succumb and disperse.

“This...”

Seeing how Jaye seemed to be able to take advantage of the powers of the laboratory, Leylin hastily moved a few steps backwards.

The old witch was sure to have hidden a lot of information from him. Thinking back to the spirit explosion that she had previously used and what had happened with the Loathsome Evil, Leylin was certain that the old witch had found out about these ruins much earlier, contrasting with what she had said. She must have already reaped a bountiful harvest from within the ruins before this expedition.

“Give up! This is the core of the secret plane. After borrowing a portion of its strength, it’s impossible to break through this defensive formation unless your power has reached such heights that you’re able to destroy this entire secret plane!”

From within the black dome, Jaye’s faint voice was transmitted over. However, there was no hint of joy in her gaze and her eyes were not on Leylin but rather on the witch. There were dozens of complicated emotions on her face-anticipation, joy, and also... fear!

Upon coming into contact with the altar, the yellowed fragmented piece of parchment burst into flames.

These flames were a light yellow and extremely pure. They started off as small as a bean and gradually crept to engulf the entire parchment, the flames turning light blue.

At the same time, the altar seemed to come to life and began to tremble.

From the gaps between the bones of the altar, fresh red blood trickled down. Dark rays were emitted from the eye sockets of many skulls.

“Old witch! You’d better calm down. It’s obvious that there’s an extremely strong and evil being trapped within the altar. I don’t care if you made a pact or some contract with it, but the strong won’t bother making transactions with the weak.”

Outside the spell formation, Leylin recalled what he had seen and hastily spoke.

“Of course, I know what’s in there! I knew about it 157 years ago! If not for it being in hibernation, and the conditions to awaken it being too harsh, I would have summoned it a long time ago... As long as I summon it, I can...”

The old witch’s facial muscles twisted, her expression crazed as she gestured wildly.

This exposed her knowledge about the ruins.

“You need to think this through. This is an evolved being that escaped out of the Loathsome Evil’s body and is much more sinister and vicious. It’s something the likes of you definitely can’t control.”

As Leylin persuaded her, he’d already left his original position and backed away to where they had climbed up, a ring of Darkness energy particles around his two legs.

“I know better than you how vicious it can get! Even though I can’t control it, I know how it was assembled and basically everything there is to know about it. As long as we give enough offerings, with the power of this spirit altar, I can definitely...”

Her eyes were crazed as she spread out her arms and yelled, “Come out! The collective body of vengeance, the manipulator of spirits and bodies! The supreme king, Gargamel!”

“Gargamel?!” Leylin’s heart lurched.

Before he had come here, he had seen plenty of records regarding the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect and naturally knew about this Gargamel. It was a being that the sect had worshipped.

They believed that a spirit was the last resting place for all beings, and the Gargamel was the one in charge of all these spirits!

It was apparent that this was a Gargamel that had already taken shape after the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s immense efforts in cultivating it! However, for some reason, this Gargamel had been sealed here by the Magi of the sect.

The old witch had obviously received the inheritance from the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect and obtained many benefits. She had also been working hard to unseal the Gargamel.

Leylin believed he had a rough understanding of this whole situation.

The black ring of light around his legs flashed and, wrapped in energy particles, his body's speed reached its limits and he instantly disappeared away from the mountain.

Even though he had no idea why the old witch had swindled him and Brass Ring into coming here, it definitely wasn't anything good!

Leylin felt it was better if he retreated as soon as possible.

As long as he was out of this secret plane, even if the old witch and Jaye attacked together, Leylin was certain he could take care of them.

"A smart move, but it's a pity that it's too late..." Jaye, who was nearby, gave a low sigh.

At this very moment, the piece of parchment on the altar had already been burnt to ashes and, with a cry from the old witch, streams of black gases streamed out of the gaps within the bones of the altar.

Weng Weng!

An ancient devil was awake once more.

An aura that caused one's heart to palpitate in fear arrived on top of the mountain of white bones.

Ice-cold! Evil!

Leylin felt as if he had returned to his childhood, powerless while surrounded by a group of direwolves.

He hated being made aware of how fragile his life was.

Just with the leakage of this aura, the secret plane vibrated slightly.

A vast amount of black gas converged and gradually solidified, forming a gigantic translucent figure.

The figure brought the skull on top of the altar to its face, treating it as a

mask. Its two completely red eyes seemed to be looking down on every one of the Magi present as if they were mere ants.

Leylin's heart plummeted, and he could not gather any strength.

"Jiik!" The black figure bellowed towards the heavens.

With the tremendous sound waves, the black defensive spell formation that had caused Leylin much trouble instantaneously gave way, and the old witch and Jaye were forced aside from the pressure.

Pu!

As the old witch flew backwards, mouthfuls of blood spurted out like water gurgling in a spring.

Chapter 185: The Gargamel

“Respected Lord Gargamel... Cough cough... please accept our offerings”

Jaye, who was at the side, suffered quite a deal from the energy waves. However, she was still better off than the old witch and was somewhat able to stand.

Observing these circumstances, she was partly kneeling in a bizarre position, while tossing a severed Magus' head in front of the black shadow.

“Brass Ring!”

Leylin's pupils contracted as he recognized whose head it was. It seemed that Brass Ring didn't die because of the secret plane's mechanisms after all, but was instead ambushed by the old witch and Jaye.

Right now, Leylin stood to the side with cold sweat forming on his body, not daring to move an inch.

Although the black shadow atop the altar didn't look his way, he could clearly feel an extremely vicious and unyielding spiritual force completely locking him down.

Leylin had a premonition that if he took a single step forward, he would be struck by the full power of the Gargamel!

Crunch! Crunch!

Immediately after receiving the head of Brass Ring, whose expression still held traces of disbelief, the black shadow put it into its mouth and started to chew.

An absolutely horrifying grinding noise could be heard reverberating from the top of the skeleton mound.

“Ji Ji!” After the black shadow swallowed the head whole, it gave off a sound of satisfaction. Moreover, a scarlet tongue licked its lips, apparently with a desire for more.

“Ah, a spirit that fulfills the conditions! State your wishes!”

An ancient and cryptic voice sounded directly into Leylin and the others' consciousness, spoken in a language Leylin had never heard before. Strangely, Leylin could understand the meaning of each word that was being spoken.

"I want..." Jaye slowly opened her mouth.

"Let my daughter Jaye come back to life! Give her a new body filled with life!" The old witch, who had fallen to the side, suddenly grew frantic. As she threw herself in front of the Gargamel's shadow, "If you can fulfill my desire, I will pay any price necessary!"

It could be a misperception, but after the old witch spoke of those words, Leylin seemed to notice a hint of... ridicule in the Gargamel's gigantic eyes

"I need... I need more offerings..."

The giant shadow licked its lips, "According to the principles of spirit transformation, a male magus cultivating in the Darkness element is a necessary offering!"

"I got it!" Old witch retrieved a couple of crystal balls filled with spiritual powers, and in addition, pointed towards Leylin.

"As for the offering, it's that Magus!"

As the black shadow stated its conditions. Leylin felt his heart sink as he furiously activated his hastening spells.

His silhouette looked like it was cloaked inside a black tornado as it charged down the hill.

However, the speed of the black shadow Gargamel was far beyond Leylin's expectations.

Facing Leylin's escape, the black shadow simply extended a translucent palm and grabbed!

Screech! Whoosh!

The black tornado was torn apart, revealing Leylin's body.

Leylin felt like the air was instantly solidifying, and that it was constantly

pressing in from all four sides.

In an instant, a band of silver light descended from the sky and coiled around Leylin's waist.

From this band of light emerged an enormous amount of tyrannical spiritual force. The quality of this spiritual force was higher than anything that Leylin had ever encountered before. Just a tiny bit was enough to completely shatter his elemental essence converted spiritual force.

The spiritual force was a fundamental part of a Magus and was also the primer for casting spells.

With spiritual force having been shattered, Leylin naturally could not cast a single spell.

The silver band of light retracted, and Leylin was forced to follow its movements to ultimately arrive in front of the altar.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

Four black shackle-like tentacles emerged from the altar and bound Leylin's limbs tightly together.

The present Leylin's body was spread eagle as he was presented to the black shadow Gargamel.

"Spiritual force materialisation! This evil spirit Gargamel must be at least at the level of a rank 2 Magus!"

Leylin's face was deadly pale as his mind raced, trying to gauge the strength of the black shadow.

At the same time, the A.I. Chip was operating at full speed in order to calculate the energy that the Gargamel was emitting, and from there, predict its stats and weaknesses.

Spiritual force materialisation was an advanced technique that only rank 2 Magi were qualified to practice!

Spiritual force lacked shape or substance, and the various colorful spells that Leylin had seen were actually just the appearance of elemental particles that were in the air. As for the spiritual force, it acted as a

catalyst and initiated the process of casting spells. However, all of these things could not be observed with the naked eye.

After a Magus reached rank 2, he could directly draw his spiritual force from his sea of consciousness out into the real world, and materialise it into the most basic energy particle. This was something that could be seen by even the most ordinary person!

When dealing with Magi below rank 2, who were unable to materialise their spiritual force, that ability made it basically impossible to lose!

After all, for Magi who could materialise their spiritual force, their condensation of spiritual force far surpassed that of a rank 1 Magus. With the weak spiritual force of a rank 1 Magus, it was impossible to hold out against attacks produced by the spiritual force of a rank 2 Magus, which resulted in the situation where a rank 1 Magus' power was nothing compared to that of a rank 2 Magus.

The silver band of light that the shadowy Gargamel used was a materialisation of spiritual force that could be seen in the real world!

"A rank 2 Magus? To think that the contingency plans that I had the A.I. Chip prepare in case of an emergency would have to be used now..." Leylin's thoughts whirled about as he turned to watch the witch carefully.

"Can you tell me the truth now?" Leylin's voice was muffled as if he had lost all hope. "After all, we're still allies!"

"Other than the agreement on the making of the potion and how we were to divide them, there wasn't any condition that said we couldn't injure one another!"

The old witch was still trembling incessantly as if she was about to topple to the ground and die any second. At the same time, however, she was extremely zealous, and her cheeks were flushed.

"I'm willing to do anything for Jaye, much less sacrifice an ally like you that has wicked intentions!"

"Jaye! She's your daughter?" Leylin stared blankly. Immediately he turned his head towards Jaye, the black-cloaked person.

Jaye nodded her head and removed the black gown she wore.

A translucent image of a girl appeared in front of Leylin. The image had the appearance of a very young and pretty woman, and on her pretty face, one could still see some traces of how the old witch looked when she was in her youth.

“Spirit bodies?” Leylin was stunned once more. He thought back to how Jaye had been silent the entire time, and how she even wore a thick pair of gloves. Of course, there should also have been other secret methods that were used, or else Leylin and Brass Ring, who had spent some time with her, would have discovered the abnormalities of Jaye’s body long before.

“My poor daughter permanently lost her physical body after an accident during an experiment. All that I can do is to constantly transfuse spiritual force into her and prolong the amount of time that she can stay in this world...”

The old witch’s eyes were glazed over as if she was reminiscing the past.

“Even though Jaye is already dead, I have never given up on my wish to bring her back to life! By a stroke of fate, I remembered some materials about the ancient Spirit Slaying Sect that I had obtained when I was young. Their spirit transferring technique is definitely able to resurrect my daughter and help her regain a physical body!”

“So you’ve been collecting spirits and continuously trying to unseal this Gargamel?”

Leylin coldly inquired.

“That’s right!” The old witch frankly admitted to it. “It is also thanks to your potions. Without them, Jaye’s spirit would not have been strengthened enough to allow her to withstand the transfer...”

It seemed that all of the Tears of Mary potions that the old witch had received from Leylin had gone to Jaye.

As a result, Jaye’s spirit was able to increase from that of an ordinary person to the level of an official Magus.

“Also, in order to summon the Gargamel and resurrect Jaye, a few conditions need to be met!” Having planned this for decades and on the verge of seeing it succeed, the old witch was obviously in the mood to say everything that was on her mind.

For some reason, the shadowy Gargamel did not make a move, and just waited as she spoke.

“I need to initiate the process of summoning the Gargamel through the use of an official Magus who meets several stringent requirements, such as those in terms of aptitude and physique. In order to resurrect Jaye, these are the offerings required. Do you know how long it took me to look for you two offerings? Do you have any idea how long I waited for this moment?”

The old witch’s expression became crazed. Without even waiting for Leylin to speak, she thundered, “53 years! To fulfil these conditions, I waited 53 whole years!”

“In these 53 years, my darling Jaye suffered a lot...sob...sob...”

At the climax of her narration, the old witch’s tears flowed down her face, while Jaye stood silently to one side.

“All of my efforts have been rewarded. Now, my beloved daughter, Jaye, will be resurrected!!”

Leylin silently listened on. Now, all was clear to him.

Leylin was not angry about the fact that he and Brass Ring would be offerings.

He’d never thought himself to be treasured by the heavens, where he would somehow be able to profit from unfortunate situations or turn misfortunes into blessings.

Since he could scheme against others, others could obviously do the same.

All he could do was to consider all of his options in advance and make sure that every step went as perfectly as was possible. This was so he

would not be schemed against or made use of.

“Honourable Gargamel, based on the rules for replacement, I present to you this Magus as an offering. In return, I want you to help my daughter regain a physical body.”

The old witch was gasping for breath as she placed several bizarre items on the altar while she made her request.

“This replacement is allowed!”

From under the skull mask that the shadow was wearing, it seemed to be looking at Leylin and the others with a faint trace of mockery in its expression.

The old witch who was kneeling on the ground, as well as Jaye, who seemed confused, did not notice this.

“As much as I want to stay behind and watch the show, I’m sorry!”

Leylin grinned as the large arm of the Gargamel approached him.

Chapter 186: Gravity Spell Formation

“A.I. Chip, activate the gravity spell formation with maximum force!”

Leylin violently roared inwardly.

Meanwhile, his muscles swelled and a fine layer of black scales appeared on his body.

His eyes changed to an amber colour and appeared to have a beast-like vertical pupil in them.

Scales of Kemoyin and the Eye of Petrification!

During this life-or-death situation, the current Leylin used both of his innate spells!

Leylin's vertical pupils focused on the chains and shackles that were binding him instead of the Gargamel.

This Gargamel, at the very least, had the power of a rank 2 Magus and its spiritual force exceeded Leylin's by several times. Using the Eye of Petrification on it would not be enough to close this difference in strength.

And even if Leylin got closer and used the Eye of Petrification on him, it would still only cause him an unfortunate consequence; the Gargamel would devour his spirit!

Pa! Pa! Pa!

The chains and shackles that bound him turned gray under the gaze of the Eye of Petrification.

They disintegrated all over the ground as Leylin flexed his arms.

At the same time, a reverse symbol 'j' became bright and visible on his clothes.

A strong attraction force acted on Leylin's body and pulled him away so hard that he was almost flying as he moved backwards.

The speed of this 'flight' was 4-5 times more than when he had used a spell to flee.

The old witch and Jaye only saw a black flash; Leylin had already vanished without a trace in front of their eyes.

“No...” The old witch issued a hissing roar.

Jaye wore a complicated expression on her face, as if she had lost all hope, and heaved a despairing sigh.

“The materials for the replacement has disappeared. But the ceremony has already started and must not be interrupted. Start using other materials instead...”

The Gargamel only watched from a distance the spot from where Leylin had vanished but did not chase after him. Instead, he said a few words that caused the expressions on the old witch and Jaye’s face to drastically change.

“No...”

Together with the unceasing spell which was being dispelled, a shriek filled with hopelessness and despair rang out, piercing through the entire mountain of white bones.

.....

Bang!

A huge explosion erupted and the spell formation laid on top of the white ground in the garden shattered.

Meanwhile, a black human shadow was drawn to this place and created a deep indent as it smashed into the ground due to the huge gravitational force.

“Cough Cough...”

At the bottom of a huge pit, Leylin fiercely spat out a mouthful of sand and pebbles. Upon seeing the strange angle his right arm was in, he smiled wryly.

“The A.I. Chip recovered only a portion of the ancient gravity spell formation, and using it so rashly obviously resulted in this situation. If not for my innate spell, I’m likely to have suffered far more than just a broken

arm.”

Despite the grimace on his face, he jumped out of this large pit quickly and observed his surroundings. This was the place where he had fought with the vengeful spirit, the Loathsome Evil, and also where he had arranged his spell model.

“This gravity spell formation was truly set up perfectly!”

Leylin sighed regretfully, and immediately commanded, “A.I. Chip, analyse the map and find the most optimal route to exit the secret plane!”

Previously, upon the spirit altar, Leylin had seen something similar to a map of the secret plane.

Due to his cautiousness, he had immediately asked the A.I. Chip to make a record of the map and compare it with the map made from routes he had travelled. As expected, the result was that he obtained a complete map – the entire map of the secret plane!

The gravity spell formation here was an ancient spell that he had upgraded himself.

He had only seen the original model of this spell in the ancient books at the Four Seasons Garden, and many parts of it were already badly damaged.

Even with the A.I. Chip’s help he only had one complete portion, which only held 30 to 40% of the original power of the spell formation.

But this 30 to 40% power was enough to cause Leylin much happiness and was one of his hidden trump cards.

This gravity spell formation model was able to create a powerful gravitational force, which would forcibly pull magic artifacts or lifeforms that had previously been engraved onto a place where the gravity spell formation had been set up.

Due to its utilisation of many ancient techniques the force of attraction was very powerful, and its speed was extremely high! Even a rank 2 Magus would be helpless against it.

If previously Leylin had the assurance of 10% success in fleeing from a rank 2 Magus, then after he had properly set up the gravitational spell, this probability of success could increase to 40% or even more!

[Map imported and the optimal route has been found!]

The A.I. Chip computed quickly and the map of the secret plane was projected clearly in Leylin's field of view. In it, a red line marked the route from Leylin's current position to the oil painting, which was the entrance to the plane.

Jiji! Just then, from the Gargamel's location, a loud, weird noise could be heard. Then a black shadow became larger and larger and finally unfurled itself within the sky.

Crash! It was as if the entire sky in the secret plane had been ripped apart, exposing a pitch-black hole, and many blood red lightning bolts and thunder hacked at this black shadow.

The shadow wore a strange skull mask and struck out at the constantly roaring lightning and thunder.

The repercussions of this fight, caused everything to be turned to dust wherever it landed. And the battlefield slowly expanded, reaching to the location where Leylin was.

"Run!"

Seeing this apocalypse-like scene, Leylin did not think for long, and immediately broke into a run.

On the way, the ground began to split open, and many trestles and stone sculptures fell to the ground. This scene was as if the world was ending.

Leylin ran with lightning-fast speed and his body was constantly covered with the Scales of Kemoyin. At high speed, all that could be seen was a long, black afterimage.

Swish!

Leylin quickly passed through a metal tunnel, and ahead of him was a dead-end. A thick layer of metal had completely sealed this passage.

But Leylin's expression did not vary in the least; flickering constantly, he rapped at a few points at the wall.

Rumble rumble! Along with a loud noise of a machine, The metal in front of Leylin split open with a deafening mechanical noise, exposing a silver passage.

Written in the ancient Byron language was a sign on one side of the tunnel that read: "Tunnel made for emergency exit, specifically for lab employees!"

Leylin's blue eyes flashed and, without hesitation, he rushed through this passage.

The silver passage quickly flashed past Leylin.

Immediately, the A.I. Chip's voice intoned, causing Leylin's footsteps to halt.

[Discovered hidden compartment. It wasn't recorded in the map previously. Do you want to continue through that way or not?]

"Hidden compartment? And the map on the spirit altar did not have a record of it? The level of secrecy of this compartment must be very high."

Leylin glanced at the passage behind him with concern, sprinted forth, and a small door suddenly appeared on the silver wall.

The room behind the door was very narrow. It was a compartment of a few square meters in area and at its center was a very simple and mysterious ancient spell formation.

This spell model was built entirely using a black stone and on its surface were all kinds of symbols which Leylin could not understand. All around this spell model were tall obelisks.

Leaning on one of the obelisks was a corpse.

This corpse was wearing a black gown that was lushly and delicately embroidered. More importantly was that even after such a long time had passed the clothes still had a bright and beautiful luster.

"This definitely was a very important person!" Seeing this corpse, Leylin

inwardly exclaimed.

“A.I. Chip, record the patterns on the spell model” Leylin issued an order then he crouched down next to the corpse, and began fumbling about its clothes.

Some miscellaneous items and a torn diary made of parchment paper fell into Leylin’s hands.

[The spell model’s formation and the runes have already been recorded.]

After hearing the A.I. Chip’s intonation, Leylin immediately left the secret compartment. All of these took place in less than 15 seconds of time.

Leylin tapped on another wall of the secret compartment, then he quickly ran away.

And behind him, with a rumbling noise, the secret compartment door closed and a white light was emitted throughout the entire passage. Nobody could tell he had been in there.

.....

Rays of bright sunlight shone down.

It was already daytime in the small town, but, because of the old witch’s potion, the populace was in a state of deep sleep.

This situation had already been discovered by the surrounding villagers and the rumors spread about very fast.

Of course, due to the fact that there were limitations in communication and reasons of time, the extent to which these rumors were spread was very small and did not attract the interest of even an acolyte.

Now, the small town gained the reputation of being a ghost town.

At the end of the passage, the oil painting emitted a silvery light. Then this light turned brighter and brighter, and finally revealed the entrance of a passageway.

Whoosh!

From this entrance emerged a black shadow in very sorry shape.

Leylin used his left hand to wipe his cold sweat and turned around to see the passage to the secret plane.

“That was way too dangerous! If not for the defense mechanism that the Magi of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect set up for in case the Gargamel lost control, I wouldn’t have been able to get away...”

To say that the Gargamel was very powerful was not a lie; the current Leylin was definitely not its match.

The being formed from the gathering of evil souls were simply insane. They were known for their temperamental nature, and Leylin wanted nothing to do with such terrifying and dangerous entities.

“Latent Fireball!”

After looking at the entrance to the secret plane, a flash of determination passed through his eyes and he threw black fireballs at the entrance, thoroughly destroying it.

Although there were many good things inside this secret plane, but when compared to his own insignificant life, Leylin certainly knew which he would prefer.

And compared with the fact that the Gargamel could come out at any time to finish him off, the other items inside the secret plane at once became dispensable.

Leylin looked at the surroundings and after removing all traces of his having been here, he departed from this place without looking back.

And if the entrance was not destroyed, then the Gargamel could come out from within the secret plane.

Leylin estimated that, with the strange and savage power of the Gargamel, it could immediately find the weak point of the secret plane and tear it apart and escape!

But by that time, Leylin would be a long distance away. What did this have to do with him?

Furthermore, in the entire Magus world of the south coast, Leylin was not the only Magus around. For instance, the head of the Night Lighthouse that he had met earlier was more than capable of suppressing this Gargamel!

Chapter 187: Emergency Situation

The speed at which Leylin escaped was extremely quick, and after just half a day, the tall, thick walls of the Nightless City were within sight.

At this point, his right hand had already completely healed. The frightening vitality of a Warlock was proving its worth.

Only after entering the Nightless City did Leylin breathe a huge sigh of relief.

The Gargamel was the result of the concentration of evil intentions by the Ancient Spirit Slayer Sect. Although it was unknown why that Gargamel had been sealed there by the Magi of the sect, based on the calculations from the battle with it, Leylin could say that this monster's strength was equivalent to that of a rank 2 Magus!

Although Leylin couldn't hold his own against it, there were a couple rank 2 Magi in the south coast that could. At the very least, the leaders of large scale Magus organisations and powers definitely had at least this level of power.

At that moment, within the Nightless City, the trading centre of the south coast, there were quite a few Magi with this kind of strength.

Leylin was sure that if the Gargamel were to chase after him, the Nightless City was sure to have the means to stop it!

However, he had another plan in mind.

The old witch was trapped in the secret plane together with that terrifying culmination of evil. From the looks of it, her chances of survival were meagre.

However, it was a fact that she held the position of elder in the dark Magus organisation that Leylin was affiliated with—Thousand Meddling Hands. Her status was obviously higher than that of an average member, and she was also able to contact the hidden rank 2 Magus heading the group!

With her death, there would be loose ends that needed to be tied up.

If possible, Leylin would obviously want to take possession of everything the old witch owned.

In a light Magus organisation, this would naturally be impossible. However, in the case of Thousand Meddling Leaves, as long as he revealed a bit of his might, it would be enough to subdue the ambitious Magi who wished to take over this position.

“Hello? Is this Leylin?”

At this moment, a secret imprint that resembled a four-coloured ring emerged from Leylin’s waist. A man’s voice was transmitted from it.

“Hello, Lord Decarte!”

Leylin could make out the owner of this imprint. It was the head of the Potioneering team, Decarte! His tone naturally became respectful.

Previously, all of the missions that Decarte needed Leylin to complete had been issued to him by Leylin’s current leader, Martin

“Ugh, the secret imprint seemed to have had some sort of interference, and I couldn’t contact you at all. Did you go somewhere far away?”

Decarte’s questions were transmitted to him from the secret imprint.

“Yes. I’d accepted a friend’s invitation to explore a small ruin...” Leylin’s answer was half true.

“No wonder! Many of these ruins left behind by Magi will automatically block out all forms of communication. In there, a secret imprint is merely a useless decoration...” No matter if Decarte actually believed him or not, the voice from the secret imprint sounded convinced.

“My apologies for making my lord worry about me. Might I ask what you require of me?” Leylin was puzzled as he spoke to the imprint.

“Yes, there’s something that I need. A few elders and the head have issued orders that Four Seasons Garden has entered the highest state of alert. All Magi will have their vacations cancelled! Upon receiving this message, you must report to the headquarters within 24 hours! All who do not do so will be viewed as traitors, and will be punished by the law

enforcers!”

Decarte broke out the earth-shattering news.

“What?”

Leylin was in shock, causing him to take a few steps back.

The Four Seasons Garden wasn’t stupid, and issuing such an order could only imply one thing. Something was going to happen to the entire south coast.

“I’ll be there in time! Can you tell me what has happened?”

Leylin sucked in a few breaths of air and calmed himself down before inquiring.

“The whole situation is a little complicated. You can ask Martin about it when you’re back. There’s only one thing I can tell you—war! A war is approaching...”

“I don’t have any more time left. Just remember to come here as quickly as possible! In war, the weak ones who don’t have organisations to rely on are usually the first to die!”

Pop! With his last word, the secret imprint dispersed into countless bright sparks, drifting through the air around Leylin.

Decarte’s sounded serious, which caused Leylin’s heart to sink.

When compared to these strong organisations, the conflict at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was but a small matter.

To have caused the Four Seasons Garden’s Potioneering team head to be so flustered, there was only one possibility—that an incoming war was going to rock the Magus World!

Leylin suddenly remembered some information about Magus’ history.

After the ancient times had passed, it was the current period. During this current period, two huge wars had occurred. These two events had affected the Magi, and basically all species in the entire south coast. The Magi suffered massive casualties, and the humans were obviously more

affected, with numerous empires annihilated.

These two wars were named the First and Second Great Magus Wars!

Now, it seemed the Third Great Magus War was about to begin!

Leylin's scrunched up his brows and wrinkled his forehead.

For him, it was entirely possible to accumulate information and resources, and with the A.I. Chip, he would be able to constantly break through his bottlenecks and improve further.

As a result, Leylin had hoped to be able to develop in a more peaceful and stable environment until he would reach a bottleneck.

In the previous great wars, acolytes were cannon fodder. Even official Magi fell and died in swarms, resulting in the alternate name of the wars: the Magus World's Death Grinder.

Leylin wasn't sure that he would be lucky enough to escape unscathed!

Wars of this scale affected the entire south coast, and nobody had been able to escape. As long as one was a Magus, he or she would be involved in it.

Unless... If he left the south coast and passed through several extremely dangerous regions, and set off for a new place, he would be safe.

"I shouldn't scare myself. It might just be a conflict between the Four Seasons Garden and another Magus organisation!"

Leylin, who had been standing by the city gates, suddenly smiled gently and walked right inside.

He'd thought it through. No matter what happened, it had absolutely nothing to do with him.

After all, he was a member of Four Seasons Garden's Potioneering team! Unless Caesar's entire hunting team was annihilated, research personnel like him wouldn't need to be on the battlefield.

If this was a war with other Magus organisations, with the Four Seasons Garden's background, it would be impossible to be thoroughly annihilated.

If he were to defect now, it would be an extremely foolish decision that would offend the Four Seasons Garden for no reason.

If the Third Great Magus War was to happen, the entire south coast would become a battlefield, and no area would be safe.

Decarte's words were a reminder as well as a warning.

Great wars never began with both sides going all out. It would start with them using small groups and neutral parties to eliminate all other elements, and then they would be able to fight freely, without fear of others taking advantage of the situation.

Wandering Magi and indecisive small organisations were definitely the first to be used!

Leylin didn't want to lose his backing and live a life where a crisis was always imminent.

As a result, it was necessary for him to return to the Four Seasons Garden.

Leylin was confident that he had hidden his skills well. In the eyes of the Magi in the Four Seasons Garden, Leylin was merely a newly advanced Magus who was talented in Potioneering and training!

If the leaders of Four Seasons Garden were stupid enough to get Leylin to be cannon fodder, then at the most, he would just leave and cut all connections between them.

Leylin was confident he would be able to leave the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters without alerting the rank 2 Magi there.

After thinking this entire matter through, Leylin achieved a calm state of mind. Only then did he have the mood to survey his surroundings.

At this moment, Leylin discovered a difference in the Nightless City!

The Nightless City's large gates had all been opened wide. Giants, which were usually rarely seen, could be seen wearing animal hides that did not fit them, and holding huge wooden stakes. They were entering the city in twos and threes.

With every step they took, the ground slightly shook.

The number of people in the Nightless City had increased by around 50%, causing a few passages to become congested.

However, whether they were regular humans, acolytes, or even some official Magi, their expressions were dark. In particular, there were a few official Magi who had a deep sense of distrust in their eyes when they saw unfamiliar Magi.

In the first zone of the Nightless City, shops that used to be bustling despite their unorganized placement saw a sharp decrease in price of raw materials. Defensive items, potions, and the like, on the other hand, were experiencing an increase in price. Many shops had already put up signs saying they were sold out.

Though Leylin had expected this, seeing this scene in person definitely had an effect on his mood.

All this was evidence of the scale of the impending war that would affect the entire Magus World. Leylin would definitely not be able to escape this!

Leylin's footsteps seemed to become a bit heavier as he passed through several gates and entered the third zone of the Nightless City.

In the region where the villas were located, the originally lively place was somewhat deserted. There were no signs of the cheerful Magi who used to hang around the various gardens. Several flowers that used to be tended to in the flower terrace were listlessly lowering their heads, with some even showing signs of wilting, which gave off a bleak atmosphere.

"Master!"

Once he returned to his own villa, Damien, the level 3 acolyte who worked as his butler, welcomed him.

"I'm fine! Did anything strange happen in the Nightless City recently? Tell me everything you know!" Leylin immediately asked while he threw his cloak to Damien.

"Yes! Damien was just about to do so!"

There was a worried expression on his face.

“A day before, rumours about the start of a third Magus war started spreading around the Nightless City. At the beginning, nobody took it to heart, but as time passed, the fact that no organisation stood up to refute this claim has Nightless City in a frenzy...”

Chapter 188: Branding Experiment

Damien expressed a slightly apprehensive expression.

“Many Magi simply left. Huge numbers of people are in the streets buying items to increase their powers. It’s as though they are trying to use up all of the magic crystals at their disposal...”

“That strange phenomenon only gradually abated after the public center dispatched people to patrol the streets.....”

“Moreover, your good friend Magus Crew also moved out this afternoon. Before he left, he left a message for you!”

“What message?”

“The night is approaching. Be careful in everything you do!” Damien said something that sounded like a proverb.

“What does that mean?” Leylin frowned. “When did that Crew start to like being a prophetic Magus? The things he says are never clear!”

Leylin pondered for a moment, and finally told Damien, “From the information I’ve gathered, there will probably be a relatively large war that is imminent.....”

Even though he already had some guesses, when Damien heard this information, his body trembled uncontrollably. He was originally caught and became a slave because of a war. Even though he was under a spirit branding, that bitter experience was just like a brand that was deeply engraved in his memories, making it impossible for him to forget.

“That’s right, call Number 1 to 5 over here!”

Leylin casually instructed Damien, who rapidly suppressed his shaking body, and withdrew at an extremely fast pace.

After a few minutes, five armoured Grand Knights with greatswords appeared before Leylin and knelt to perform a perfect Knight’s greeting!

“Master!”

The extremely thick armour didn’t affect their movements in the

slightest way, and every movement of those five people carried a killing intent. It could be seen at a glance that they were strong veteran Grand Knights that had experienced countless battles.

“You may rise!” Leylin commented softly as he looked at those five people.

They were naturally the five Grand Knight slaves that he had purchased at the slave market in addition to Damien.

With the spirit branding, Leylin could order these five Grand Knights to die and they would obey without any hesitation.

They originally had names, but for convenience’s sake, Leylin gave all of them new names with numbers, starting from 1 to 5.

Leylin had put in considerable amounts of effort on the five Grand Knights. He constantly fixed their conditions during the past year. He didn’t even mind spending a lot of his resources to brew precious potions for them to consume.

Currently, the five experimental bodies’ were unconsciously giving off energy waves filled with life force. They were already beyond the Grand Knight’s rank and were beginning to advance to a higher realm.

“What are the results of the secret techniques that I taught you previously?”

Leylin asked.

“Master! After using the secret techniques along with the potions from before, Number 2, 3 and I felt life force start to flow through us, which was something that had not happened for a long time. Our vitality also became increasingly stronger.”

The big man on the far left stepped out of the line and said, “But when Number 4 and 5 used the secret techniques, the brand on their bodies shook and gave off scorching hot energies that interrupted their training.....”

This Grand Knight slave, known as Number 1, gave an extremely detailed

report.

In the past year, Leylin had been constantly modifying the brands of the five through the modifications made by the A.I. Chip. This had allowed him to gain a lot of fruitful experiment results.

The 'secret techniques' that were previously taught to those five Grand Knights were just improvised data from the information about Branded Swordsman.

"Is that so?" Leylin's gaze became stern. "Remove your clothes!"

The five slaves removed their body armour without any thoughts after hearing their master's order.

Crash! Metal armour made a racket as they hit the ground. The Grand Knights had removed the heavy armour in just a couple of seconds, revealing completely unclothed bodies.

Moreover, Number 4 and 5 were female Grand Knights, but they weren't at all embarrassed as they stood before Leylin with their well-developed bodies and private parts completely exposed.

Those five had the strength of Grand Knights. Their bodyline was supple, but was well developed. Every inch of their flesh hid an astonishing explosive power.

Their bodies were akin to perfectly sculpted statues.

However, there were elements that offset their aesthetic appearance from being perfect.

Leylin didn't care about the two Grand Knight beauties; his gaze was completely focused on the interweaving brand on their body.

Leylin scrutinised their bodies.

He noticed that the bodies of his Grand Knight subordinates were covered with deep, black brands.. Near these brands were some twisting scars. It seemed as if a branding iron was the source of the brands and scars.

With close observation, the brands looked like a centipede climbing.

while their chest and lower abdomen regions formed an extremely peculiar rune.

Some of the brands seemed to be broken and were unable to link together.

“A.I. Chip! Scan those brands and compare the current conditions of these Grand Knights to the previous observations in a new file!” Leylin thought.

As he said this, a blue light shone in his eyes and swept horizontally across those slaves.

[Beep! Mission established! Commencing the scanning!] The A.I. Chip followed the tasks that Leylin ordered.

Rows of numbers and three 3-D images appeared before Leylin and were constantly being updated.

“En! It seemed that the training method that I created isn’t bad. These Knights’ physical qualities have had drastic improvements and are also able to train their life force. Their previous stagnant powers are starting to rapidly improve!”

Leylin was extremely satisfied after looking at the results of the three male Grand Knights.

“The training method of the Branded Swordsman conflicts with the brands on their bodies?”

Leylin carefully looked through the A.I. Chip’s results while constantly walking around the slaves in order to attentively observe the position of the brands.

“Where is the source of the previous problem? Is it here?”

Leylin placed his hands below the lower abdomen of Number 4 without ascribing and thoughts to what he was doing. After having placed his hand there, he felt a warm sensation and could feel that underneath the smooth and supple skin, there were muscles that were slightly twitching now.

“Yes...Yes, that’s the place, Master!” said Number 4 with a slightly shaky voice. This female Grand Knight had a good appearance and an exceptionally curved, bountiful body

“If that’s the case!” Leylin caressed his lower jaw.

“A.I. Chip! Amend the parameters for the two female knights to the p-grade content and change the index to the third grade before testing again!”

This kind of calculation was an easy task for the A.I. Chip. After a short moment, the A.I. Chip had already concluded its calculation and reported it to Leylin.

[Beep! According to the calculation, the brandings of the swordsman are different for males and females. The markings must follow a carved inscription!]

After looking at the A.I. Chip’s conclusion, Leylin’s expression did not change since he had expected such a result.

“So it really was the case! Kroft had gotten hold of a part of the Branded Swordsman information, but there is an extreme lack of information concerning the brandings. The runes inscribed on males had been deduced by the A.I. Chip. Moreover, those marks aren’t suitable for females, which resulted in the two female Knights being unable to train!”

“It seems that I must purchase a large quantity of male Grand Knight slaves to try to create a Branded Swordsman!”

Leylin planned to himself.

To him, using males or females didn’t have any differences. He just needed to head to different sections of the slave Market for them.

However, regarding the most crucial rune inscriptions for the Branded Swordsman, he could only amend the model to suit males. While it was not impossible to create something out of nothing for a female version of the model, it would take a lot of time. Leylin didn’t want to spend the A.I. Chip’s precious calculation skills on this matter.

“Since this is the case, there’s only one troublesome problem in manufacturing Branded Swordsman, which is the problem in combining the markings’ powers.”

Leylin rubbed his lower jaw with flames burning in his eyes.

The ancient Branded Swordsman were similar to the bloodline Warlocks and elemental bards, which were among the stronger professions of the sub branch of the magi. Their specialties were their physical defence and offensive powers, which were regarded as their enemies’ nightmares.

Moreover, the combination of the Branded Swordsman and magicians was an eternal nightmare for many worlds.

If the Branded Swordsman could perform crowd control, then the Magi behind them would have the time to prepare the formidable power of magic in order to change a given situation.

Moreover, the power of an official Branded Swordsman was equivalent to that of at least a rank 1 Magus!

Leylin just needed to form an army with Branded Swordsmen. The quantity didn’t need to be large; 20 of them would be sufficient. With such forces, Leylin would no longer have an opponent at the rank 1 Magus level and he was also confident enough to be able to fight against a rank 2 Magus!

“However, regarding the problem of the powers, the runes of the Branded Swordsman is the pivotal point. Even if it was the A.I. Chip, it could not guarantee perfection without countless experiments and accumulation of data. Moreover, there’s also a problem in controlling the Branded Swordsmen after they evolve to a higher realm...”

Leylin lowered his head as he muttered to himself irresolutely.

He was only a rank 1 Magus now, so he could at most control level 3 acolytes and Grand Knights.

However, in a similar fashion as the Magi and Warlocks, the ancient Branded Swordsmen could break through the ordinary realm to reach an extraordinary one.

This power wasn't something that Leylin could currently control by using the spirit brand.

Thus, a safer and more effective controlling method had to be researched and implemented on those Branded Swordsman!

Only with this method could the loyalty of his soldiers be guaranteed!

Chapter 189: The Great Magus War

In the dimly lit basement.

A faint red ball of light floated in midair, constantly emitting blood red rays of light, which caused the lighting of the basement to be slightly gloomy, and gave off a horrifying atmosphere.

The previous Grand Knight, Number 1, was lying flat on the enormous white metal experimental table.

His eyes were tightly closed, and his eyelids were constantly moving, as though he was being tortured in his dreams.

Moreover, the black brands on his body seemed to be alive, constantly lengthening and shortening as it wiggled. Moreover, it slowly protruded from his skin, giving off dark red rays of light as he breathed.

“The ancient Branded Swordsman used the magic runes and arrays crafted onto their bodies to enable them to store the world’s natural energy particles into their body. Those particles could also be completely released during critical moments, turning into a terrifying spell! Moreover, the Branded Swordsman’s physical abilities were far beyond the limits of ordinary people, reaching an unfathomable stage because a large amount of energy particles constantly reformed their bodies!”

Currently, it could be said that Leylin was the top person in the south coast regarding the knowledge of the Branded Swordsman.

With a white scalpel and tweezers in his hands, Leylin finally looked at Number 1, who was still unconscious.

“Even though I’m slightly eager to gain instant benefits, I can’t consider it any further!”

Leylin sighed as he said that. He still needed to get numerous results from the experiments conducted on the five Grand Knights using the A.I. Chip in order to gain accurate parameters before he could inscribe the final energy pathways.

However, time was pressing.

The news concerning the war's imminence had arrived so suddenly that it messed up most of Leylin's original plans.

Initially, Leylin was certain that he would make the second transition in his bloodline by the time the Branded Swordsman's experiment succeeded. At that moment, with his increase in power, it wouldn't be impossible for him to battle against a rank 2 Magus.

A rank 2 Magus was at the level of the principal of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, who possessed great magical powers.

If he could calmly wait and silently accumulate power, Leylin could quickly reach the peak domain that the majority of rank 1 Magi couldn't reach in their entire lifetime.

However, everything was in ruins due to the dreadful news of the war.

At this moment, all Leylin could do was quicken his research in hopes that by the time the war came, he could produce Branded Swordsmen. He didn't expect them to have the full might of the ancient Branded Swordsman but possess at least 50-60% of their original power, which would be sufficient to ensure his life during the chaos of the war.

Leylin took a deep breath after he sorted through his thoughts.

At that instant, he completely calmed down, dispelling all distracting thoughts from his mind.

An indifferent light flashed past his eyes as Leylin carved at Number 1's chest with the assistance of the A.I. chip.

.....

"Roar!" An enormous Venom Wyvern, accompanied by a distinct loud cry, dove down from the sky. It abruptly spread its wings when it was a couple of meters above the ground.

Whoosh! Enormous green wings covered the sky, casting a large shadow on the ground.

After spreading its wings, the enormous Venom Wyvern's speed of descent drastically decreased, entering a gliding state. After gliding for a

couple of meters in the air, it steadily landed on the Four Seasons Garden's general headquarters' landing pad.

Bang! The enormous bestial claws collided with the platform. When those sharp claws contacted the floor with such a large amount of momentum, it left several meter-deep markings.

Swish! A Magus who was wearing a white robe embroidered with plants directly jumped off the back of the Venom Wyvern.

"Lord Leylin!"

The surrounding Four Season Garden acolytes hastily went forth to bow to him.

There were two other armoured men that also jumped off from the Venom Wyvern's back after Leylin disembarked. There were enormous greatswords the size of a door attached on their backs.

"These two are my followers. According to the school's rules, I've the rights to bring two servants to live with me! Register them for me!"

Leylin told one of the acolytes, "You also to feed Hawke, and increase the amount of red bread pigs by two heads. It recently entered a state of binge eating prior to maturity, so it requires a lot of food....."

"Your wish is our command, lord!" That acolyte deeply bowed as he commanded the rest of the subordinates behind him to start washing and cleaning the Venom Wyvern

The acolyte seemed to have rapidly recorded something down. After a short while, he passed two metal tablets to Number 2 and 3, who were behind Leylin.

The two tablets were completely black, and on the surface, there was a scarlet rune marking. The marking consisted of an inverted triangle within a circle, with a coiled black snake in the centre.

This was Leylin's secret imprint.

"This will be your access pass. Take good care of it, as the replacement procedure is extremely troublesome! Moreover, there are some restricted

areas that you're forbidden from entering, as we are currently in a state of emergency. If you do, you'll be caught by the guards as a spy!"

That acolyte's expression was very stern, which made Leylin apprehensive.

"That's acceptable!" Leylin nodded before leaving this place along with Number 2 and Number 3.

"Is the situation already that severe?" Seeing the Magi rushing around on the way, combined with the warning from that acolyte, Leylin's heart was slightly heavy.

Leylin, who had gotten a lot of information from the previous experiment, rushed to reach the general headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden the next day.

After all, he didn't want to get into a conflict with the Four Seasons Garden.

While he was still conducting experiments regarding the Branded Swordsman, he had brought Number 2 and Number 3 with him to make some adjustments to them using the result from experiments conducted on Number 1. Currently, Leylin had a higher understanding in his research on the Branded Swordsman!

Under the calculations from the A.I Chip, Number 2 and Number 3 would definitely become good assistants for Leylin after they became Branded Swordsmen.

Leylin had made great progress regarding the problem in controlling them.

He used the white termite as the main ingredient to make modifications to the two Grand Knights and used potions to increase the degree to which the brand was carved into their spirits.

He should be able to control their consciousness to make them completely enslaved, under those two control measures.

As for the Grand Knights Number 4 and Number 5, they were

completely crippled, as the branded runes on their bodies were not compatible with them. The branding of runes wasn't like drawing, where you could just erase your mistakes. Runes would be forever carved onto the body, and would also reside deep inside the spirit, forming a connection. This was the only way that the Branded Swordsmen could activate the natural energy particles!

Since it was Leylin's first time operating, and he was lacking in experience and information, he had already carved the wrong runes onto the previous two female Grand Knights.

Currently, there wasn't a way for Leylin to erase those runes, so they would forever lose their chances in improving and, would stay at the rank of Grand Knight for the rest of their lives.

Leylin would naturally not bring those two burdens with him. He had instructed Damien and the two female Grand Knights to defend his villa in the Nightless City as a future supply base.

Truthfully, Leylin was still in the darkness regarding the information of the war.

He knew that war was imminent, but didn't know why it was occurring. Who were the opposing forces? Everything was shrouded from him.

However seeing how the Four Season Garden was acting as though it was going to meet a formidable enemy in combat, he could guess that the enemy, this time, wasn't a simple one.

Information gathering was one of the reasons why Leylin decided to come to the general headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden.

After arranging for the two Grand Knights to stay at the residential area of the Four Seasons Garden, Leylin briskly walked to the main lounge of the Potioneering team.

It was rare for the two mischievous stone statues to not be creating trouble, so Leylin passed through them quickly.

Creak!

When the door opened, the lounge was still as flourishing and vast as before. A long, white birch table and chairs were orderly arranged. There was a white tablecloth on the table, on the side of which delicate flowers had been stitched.

Different teams in the Potioneering team sat at their respective positions, and constantly chattered among themselves.

The only difference, this time, was that the table wasn't filled with food, but was instead occupied by various documents and crystal balls that were being perused for information.

The master's position in the lounge wasn't filled. It seemed that Decarte must have been busy, and couldn't come here for the time being.

Leylin surveyed the area, and found the where Martin's team was.

When he met Martin for the first time, that old fellow was positioned extremely far from the host's position. However, now that Leylin had joined and completed some missions, that old man's position had moved quite a bit forward. This was something that Martin had constantly bragged about to everyone.

However, even though he was sitting here, the excitement of being in this seat couldn't cover the worry expressed on Martin's face.

After seeing Leylin, Martin's wrinkle covered face displayed a smile. "Leylin! Over here!"

He pointed to the seat beside him.

Leylin smiled, and after greeting the few Magi that he knew, he walked over to sit beside Martin.

"I'm really glad that you could make it! You should know that due to this dreadful war, our tasks have become much more arduous....."

Since they were extremely close to each other, Martin started to express his complaints to Leylin.

"Sorry! I'll definitely work hard in the Potioneering aspect, so can you tell me the details regarding the war? I was previously exploring before I

received the Lord leader's secret imprint, so I'm currently still at a loss as to what is happening!"

Leylin's face showed a textbook example of confusion.

"Oh! Look at my manners!" Martin patted his large forehead.

"Which part shall I start talking from?"

Martin stroked his beard and expressed a pondering expression.

"To be honest, the source of this battle is related to the previous two Magus wars....."

Martin commented slowly, his expression becoming serious.

Chapter 190: Eternal River Secret Plane

“Leylin, did you know how the two Great Magus Wars began?”

Martin suddenly asked.

“It seemed to be because of the differences in values between light and dark Magi, as well as some anticipated benefits.” Leylin combined the factors he had read about in books and added his personal take on it.

“Benefits! Everything was for the sake of benefits!”

Martin waved his hand, his expression increasingly agitated.

“Saying that there was a difference in opinion is just a superficial reason, but when it comes down to it, it was all for benefits! When I find out who said this, I’ll copy it down and engrave it in my room!”

Martin quickly proceeded, “In reality, no matter if they were light or dark Magi, they were on the path of pursuing the truth! As long as they were not obstructed, no matter which areas the light Magi occupied, or what massacres the dark Magi were responsible for, the Magi couldn’t care less.”

“The real reason for the two Great Magus Wars was to obtain resources! The meagre resources in the south coast were not enough for the many of the Magi here...”

Leylin listened quietly as Martin explained the truth behind the Great Magus Wars.

At this moment, a cold smile emerged on his face.

“The so-called Great Magus Wars were actually just for the sake of obtaining more materials, which were not even abundant in the first place. It was a battle started by the highest tier of Magi on both the light and dark Magi’s ends, and was a way to ‘clean up’ the Magus World. After the war, there were massive casualties on both the light and dark Magi’s sides, and the remaining resources were enough for the Magi who had survived to advance. This is how the generations of families came to be on the south coast.”

As Martin was narrating, Leylin saw a rare look of heartache on his face.

From the looks of it, Martin did not approve of these methods and reasoning, and it was highly likely that he was somehow directly affected by the wars.

Leylin immediately thought back to his previous world.

In his previous life, the fall of any empire was said to be caused by corruption and an incompetent monarch, amongst many other things.

The way Leylin saw it, the real reason for their fall was due to benefits and resources!

In ancient times, the land was the base of life. As time passed, the population rapidly grew, and since there wasn't family planning, people kept on having babies and used them for manual labour. That was the norm!

With an increase in population, but with the same amount of land available, not everyone was able to own land to support themselves. For this reason, the entire empire naturally declined.

Of course, during this process, high officials and landowners had their lands taken over, which hastened this decline.

.....

After that, the confusion and deaths caused by the war caused the population to be diminished by about 60 to 70%, and the land and territory were left open for the remaining survivors to use. With this foundation, a new leader could govern well for a century or two and then decline. The cycle would continue...

Leylin believed that the south coast's Magus World was in such a situation.

Even with various measures, the number of Magi was still on the rise, and the south coast's rate of production of materials was hardly enough to support the rate at which Magi advanced in strength.

Many had to see their dreams crushed due to the lack of resources

available.

This bitterness and hatred were passed down from generation to generation, resulting in a state where the ruling Magi began to feel afraid!

Hence, a few of the top guilds in the south coast were unafraid of the losses that might be incurred, and initiated wars, disposing of less powerful Magi organisations.

In those wars, winning was useless! Surviving was the best form of victory!

Once he thought that through, Leylin sucked in a breath of cold air.

Compared to the huge empires in his previous life that could not forge ahead any longer, the south coast Leylin was in was just a small part of the Magus World. It could almost be said to be a rural country area.

Even so, those wielding power in the south coast would rather constantly exhaust their own power by raiding to reduce the risks and resentment of their people, than expand their territory. There was only one reason for this!

Just as how it had happened with the Great Magus Wars, the desire to expand would often result in the opposite reaction, where gains did not make up for the losses. No leader was willing to lose their Magus underlings.

“What sort of dangers lie beyond the south coast?”

Leylin sighed inwardly. He had intentions on travelling all around the Magus World and climbing up to bigger heights. However, from this situation, it seemed rather impossible to even leave the south coast.

“However, this does explain why the south coast has always been so sealed off. Rarely are there Magi that stop over, with the only exception being the great Magus Serholm!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed as he seemed to come to a realisation.

“So does that mean that this impending war is also meant to lessen the population of official Magi?”

At this point, Martin and Leylin had both lowered their voices and transmitted their thoughts. Leylin had also taken the liberty of setting up a few spell formations that would isolate sound waves.

“That’s not it!” Martin slapped his head.

“I just had a lot of feelings regarding the previous Great Magus Wars!”

Old Martin behaved as though he was an old man, and Leylin had the urge to bash him up.

“Hahaha...” Seeing Leylin’s reaction, he laughed in a carefree manner.

“I apologise. I have this problem where in critical moments, I usually like to make jokes to ease my nerves.” Martin gave a tiny grin as an apology, but all Leylin saw was a despicable old man.

“Alright, let’s get back to the topic. The reason for this war is a dispute over benefits!”

Old Martin’s expression became milder, but Leylin still listened intently.

“About two days ago, a group of Magi who were out exploring in the Eternal River Plains found a Magus’ secret plane!”

Martin told Leylin some information.

This group had been searching for some ruins and had accidentally activated the secret plane, resulting in the leakage of this news, which could set off wars. This wasn’t anything new on the south coast.

However, to be able to elicit such a huge response from Old Martin, even making him think that the Third Magus War was arriving, this secret plane must be very unique.

“A secret plane? Is it a resource type plane? How big is it?” Leylin got right to the key points.

“I don’t know! From the information provided by Magi who had gone in, it’s about ten million mu! The density of elemental particles in there is of the highest quality, A!”

Listening to Martin’s statement, Leylin could not help but gasp in

admiration.

Even a large-scale light Magi organisation like the Four Seasons Garden only had a secret plane the size of a little more than a million mu. Just from the site of exploration, the secret plane was already much bigger than what the Four Seasons Garden possessed.

Such a huge benefit was enough for the peace-loving light Magi, who were usually buried in research, to covet and be willing to kill to obtain the secret plane.

“Worst of all, such a huge secret plane has a large number of entrances. It seems that after the exploration group activated one of them, the other entrances were also automatically opened. Based on the news I’ve gathered, there are at least 7 other entrances.”

Old Martin was acting mysteriously about this.

Leylin just gave a huge sigh. “The Eternal River Plains are just at the border between the dark and light Magi’s territories. The undulations from the entrances to such a large scale secret plane will definitely be detected by official Magi, even if it were a thousand li away.”

He finally knew the reason for the wars. Even though it wasn’t the worst situation, it wasn’t all that good either.

“Exactly! Some dark and light Magus organisations got there first, and upon seeing the secret plane, started killing each other from their desire to gain possession of it. In the end, nobody received any benefits, and they later passed on the information they had learned to the organisations behind them! This information spreading from layer to layer resulted in a civil war between the various Magi.”

“In the end, the dark Magi managed to take control of three entrances, while the light Magi took control of the other four. In the huge secret plane, a bloodthirsty battle to steal away various precious resources and territories ensued. The war this time will be inside the plane, and Magi from all over will fight within. Of course, the most important part will be to gain possession of the territory within...”

Leylin heaved a sigh of relief.

Compared to the two other wars that affected the entire south coast, this was going to affect the Magus World the least. The number of dead humans would be minimal, and for Magi like him, as long as he did not choose to enter the secret plane, he would naturally be safe.

At most, there would be an increase in tasks related to Potioneering.

Of course, nearing the end of the war, there was sure to be a large number of casualties within the organisations, and Leylin might even have to be sent to the frontlines.

However, if that truly were to happen, Leylin would immediately choose to escape, and obviously wouldn't be forced into the fight.

Just as Leylin was about to enquire more from Martin, a clear sound resounded within the hall.

Despite there being no wind, the multi-coloured fabrics in the hall rustled, and rays of rainbow coloured lights shone within the room.

A distinct sound resonated across the hall.

"The team leader is here! Get up and greet him!"

Martin pulled Leylin along.

Leylin rolled his eyes and stood unwillingly.

As the team leader of Four Seasons Garden's Potioneering team, Decarte's power was unquestionable. He was already at the peak of rank 1, and was ready to break through to rank 2 at any moment.

He also had many achievements in Potioneering and was said to be a great master in the subject.

However, not only was this man old fashioned, he was also crazy for anything lavish that could show off his status.

As a result, this person who liked to have dinner with his underlings, have conversations and issue missions in the stately, formal hall, could not tolerate the slightest bit of rudeness towards him.

A number of Magi had been punished for this reason.

Chapter 191: Issuing Missions

Below the stage, numerous Magi bowed.

On the podium, red flames blazed.

A Magus in white robes and a green headband leaped up from the flames energetically, looking like a flame sprite.

“My lord!” Leylin and the other Magi bowed together.

“Hmph!” Decarte nodded in an aloof manner and swept his long cloak before taking a seat at his assigned place.

“Everyone!” Decarte’s voice was very gentle, though he had a weird accent. Having stored a large amount of data, Leylin knew that this was an accent that Magi nobility used in the ancient times. Other than showing off one’s status, there was nothing special about it. Only the most traditional families practised this way of speech now.

“I believe those in charge of you have already spoken to you. If not, you can ask them about it. I have only one thing to say here!”

“Four Seasons Garden will take over one of the entrances to the Eternal River secret plane on behalf of the light Magi. The battle and hunting teams have already been brought into the plane in batches to vie over the resources within against the dark Magi. Our Potioneering team may not be directly involved in killing the dark Magi, but we have the role of brewing potions and definitely can’t hinder the other teams!”

At this point, Decarte’s eyes shone as he scanned the area.

All Magi present trembled with fear.

“Is this the power of a Magus at the peak of rank 1?”

Though Leylin could withstand such might, he knew he definitely wasn’t Decarte’s match yet.

He looked at his stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent.
Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 58.9, Magic Power:

58 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 70%. Status: Healthy]

As a Magus on the verge of breaking through to rank 2, Decarte's spiritual force had definitely gone past 70 and might even be near 80. His elemental essence conversion was sure to have reached a high percentage and was much more than 80%, which was the requirement to break through.

Leylin suspected that Lord Decarte could have advanced a long time ago but had held himself back in order to increase his elemental essence conversion as much as possible before trying to break through!

Leylin knew that he had a large number of tricks up his sleeves, but the most he could do was catch Decarte unprepared. It was certain that the experienced Decarte could beat him up thoroughly.

"Alright, now I'll issue the missions. Callum, your research on the Tree Secretion Potion is temporarily on hold. From hereon, spend all your time on brewing the Rotting Bee Swarm potion!"

Decarte began to issue the missions.

A Magus with a gold helmet that covered his face stood and greeted him.

Leylin knew of Callum. He was said to be the number one in the Potioneering team, and the team he led was very capable. They had managed to complete a series of difficult missions, and his own Potioneering abilities were awe-inspiring. Based on Leylin's calculations, without the use of his trump card, the A.I. Chip, he might not even match up to Callum.

Leylin had heard a bit about the Tree Secretion Potion that Callum's team was in charge of. The formula had already been mostly figured out, and there was one more step till the potion could show its real effects.

However, because of the war, this experiment had to be postponed.

"Good. I'll compensate your losses a while later!" Seeing Callum so cooperative, Decarte's expression brightened.

“Next up is...”

Decarte changed all of the teams' existing missions.

Their previous missions had to do with research and fortification, but these were all abandoned in favour of refining potions that had immense killing power.

Martin's team, which Leylin was in, received a mission to brew the Heart of Lava.

This Heart of Lava Potion was a type of offensive potion that had a large area of effect.

Though its might was a little weak at around 20 degrees, it had a wide range and was a necessary item in large-scale wars.

Besides Martin's team, other Potioneering groups also received this mission.

This potion was not easy to brew, but Decarte cared little for the grimaces on his subordinates' faces and allocated a fixed number for each team to make. He also mentioned that if the monthly quota was not met, not only would their benefits and allocations be decreased, they might also be deprived of some of their current authority.

Martin's expression was bitter, and Leylin's heart lurched when Martin looked at him with hope.

Decarte's attitude seemed to imply that Four Seasons Garden did not have the upper hand in the fight for territories within Eternal River secret plane. Hence, they needed a large number of these offensive potions.

If that was the case, it was a definite possibility that people who were usually working at the back, like alchemists and potion masters, would be sent to the frontlines to increase Four Seasons Garden's strength.

With such high odds of this happening, Leylin needed to make some preparations for himself.

After all, he wasn't so stupid as to give his life for Four Seasons Garden.

“Leylin, we're counting on you!”

Martin had a look of fervent hope as he patted Leylin on the back. His teammates had the same expression.

“Alright! However, this mission is extremely important and I can’t guarantee anything...”

Leylin forced a smile.

Time passed quickly, especially while one was busy brewing potions.

Usually, Leylin obviously would not reveal his true abilities in making potions.

While brewing them, he purposely failed a few times in order to hide his ridiculously high rate of success.

However, there was an upside to this whole situation. As Potioneering was a job that demanded one to be meticulous, the environments Potion Masters were in had to be suitable. Hence, they often worked alone.

Leylin also had a private laboratory of his own, and while he was brewing potions, even his own team members did not dare interrupt him.

This gave him the opportunity to do as he pleased.

Firstly, Leylin used a frighteningly short amount of time to brew enough potions to fill the quota. The rest of the time was used on researching the Branded Swordsman, the information he had obtained from the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s secret plane, and other subjects of interest.

Within Leylin’s private laboratory.

Burettes, beakers, and other laboratory containers holding colourful liquids were scattered atop the pure white experimenting table. Some of these liquids were solvents that effervesced.

Beside the table, Leylin had his eyes tightly closed, his facial muscles twitching.

At the same time, rings of energy and spiritual force rippled and were constantly being compressed. The atmosphere began to undulate with the tiniest ripples as if it were also being compressed.

The large spiritual force that Leylin possessed was constantly lowering along with the fluctuations, and there even came a point where his spiritual force was undetectable.

A good while later, Leylin opened his eyes.

Currently, his eyes were clear and pure. The layer of darkness from before was nowhere to be seen.

The energy waves he usually gave off had vanished and he seemed to be a regular human. The only identifiable aspect was the deep and immeasurable dark shadow that flashed in his eyes occasionally.

“The spiritual force compression method I obtained from the old witch is surprisingly effective!”

Leylin used the A.I. Chip to scan himself, but even the A.I. Chip could only give a few vague numbers and was unable to effectively analyse the state of Leylin’s body.

Leylin prevented the A.I. Chip from using all its efforts on calculating data, and he had not authorized the usage of an atomic microscope either. However, just this kind of result was enough to make him happy.

From the A.I. Chip’s calculations, this spiritual force compression method matched up the spiritual force energy waves from his body and then compressed them. This would then adjust the spiritual force energy waves and hide his true strength.

Just the first half of the information that the old witch had provided was enough to conceal his strength from other rank 1 Magi.

With the second half he obtained from the old witch during his time in the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s secret plane, this effect was multiplied.

The current Leylin was certain that even rank 2 Magi would be unable to detect the concealment of his strength.

Having this ability right before the impending war made it even more precious!

“This method can be used as one of my hiding skills. When coupled with

Shadow Stealth, the effects seem to be even better...”

The A.I. Chip began to calculate fervently while Leylin was deep in thought.

After about half an hour, Leylin got up and rang the golden handbell on the experimentation table.

Ding-a-ling! Ding-a-ling!

The crisp sound of a bell resounded.

Creak!

Moments later, a secret door opened, and two Grand Knights dressed in armour walked in.

“Number 2! Number 3! How are you feeling now?”

Leylin surveyed the two who had grown taller and had a change in their physique. Anticipation flashed in his eyes.

“There’s some pain from swelling as if something is inside drilling holes in my body...”

“Master! I feel the same as Number 2. Also, my body alternates between being cold and warm, and there are sudden surges in strength. I would break whatever I was holding unintentionally when that happened...”
Number 3 knelt on one leg as he reported.

“Is that so? Lie on the experimentation table and let me see!”

Leylin commanded.

Number 3 took off all his armour and quickly laid on the ice-cold table.

At the moment, the brand on his body was becoming increasingly clear. What was most obvious was the few strange looking brands that were broken, which had been kept in place with red devices

“I’m unable to replicate the methods of recreating the Ancient Branded Swordsman now, so I can only settle for second best. As long as I forcibly link the brand and let Grand Knights temporarily use this power, it still works!”

Leylin thought to himself.

To fully replicate the methods in creating the powerful Branded Swordsman, a large amount of time was needed.

The current Leylin had to make do and substitute it with other means.

Chapter 192: The Library's Hidden Room

In this pre-war period the entire Magus World on the south coast was in a chaotic situation.

Though Leylin had always stayed within the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters, he had not completely broken off all contact with the outside world.

Every day, he could obtain information about the south coast from his butler Damien, who was still in Nightless City, as well as from other channels.

The appearance of the Eternal River Plains' secret plane had galvanized the south coast!

All Magi, whether it be the organisations, wandering Magi, or even fugitives, were all rushing towards the Eternal River Plains.

The Eternal River Plains' secret plane was said to be the largest plane found on the south coast to date.

It had an area of as much as ten million mu and even exceeded the total area of all resource-based secret planes that had previously been found.

Many Magi wanted to reap some benefits from this magnificent discovery.

For this kind of secret plane, just a small part of it was enough to cover several decades of expenses for the average Magus! Magi organisations that could set up such a plane were sure to be outstanding, even in ancient times.

Magi who could obtain an inheritance of this level could definitely break through their bottleneck and allow them to have a chance at advancing to rank 3 or become a rank 4 Morning Star Magus!

Such a huge temptation not only made the idle Magi crazy with desire, even older Magi who had retired a long time ago had decided to act and were rushing towards the Eternal River Plains.

Due to their great numbers, the Magi rushing for the secret plane eventually had conflicts with the large Magi organisations guarding the entrances.

Dramatic scenes—chaos, murders, alliances, and betrayals—were incessantly acted out on the stage that was the Eternal River Plains.

Many small Magi organisations and individual Magi even made an alliance to contend against the large dark and light Magi groups.

In such a disorderly situation, Leylin needed to raise his strength to protect himself as quickly as possible.

Although the Branded Swordsman created in such a short amount of time were only usable once and might be of inferior strength, that was enough for Leylin.

During critical moments he could only rely on himself. As for the other organisations and powers... hehe.

The current situation in Four Seasons Garden wasn't very good.

The huge influx of Magi into the Eternal River Plains had resulted in a weakening of the security in the area. Four Seasons Garden not only had to deal with attacks from within the secret plane but also had to send out some Magi to maintain order at the entrance. Their numbers were simply not enough.

A prominent example was the obvious decrease of Magi in Four Seasons Garden. The rank 2 Magi leaders could rarely be seen.

It was clear that Four Seasons Garden's defense abilities were gradually becoming weaker.

Leylin even had the thought of giving this information to Thousand Meddling Hands and gain some benefits from their weakness.

However, this plan was quickly rejected by Leylin.

Other than the restrictions he had from the previous contract witnessed by the Trial's Eye, the rank 2 Magus guarding the secret plane was still around. Taking over this type of secret plane required at least the rank 2

dark Magus that was controlling Thousand Meddling Hands to act.

Leylin was merely a normal member who had, at most, gained some notoriety. He was not yet qualified to be in direct contact with such a strong being.

Though the old witch had promised Leylin her position as an elder, she was trapped within the secret plane. This promise thus became invalid.

Though Leylin found it a pity, he wasn't particularly regretful.

In that situation, it was already a miracle that he could escape. Considering the circumstances, it was not practical to think about anything else.

Leylin was still curious. How were the old witch and her daughter in spirit form, Jaye, doing in the secret plane?

And that Gargamel! As an evolution of the Loathsome Evil, this terrifying creature not only had the frightful strength of a rank 2 Magus, it also had many unpredictable techniques.

The destruction of the entrance to the secret plane would not obstruct it for too long.

If it were to be let out, the situation on the south coast would be much the same as it was now, or perhaps even more chaotic!

If that Gargamel found traces of Leylin, it definitely would not let him off. After all, he had basically made a fool of it.

Hence, Leylin had an increasingly intense desire for power.

"The Branded Swordsman! As long as I complete this experiment, I would instantly gain two underlings with the power of official Magi. They would be unafraid of death, and there can be an unending stream of them to serve me!"

Leylin's blue eyes flashed in excitement.

"A.I. Chip! Scan the data!"

[Beep! Mission established, beginning to collect data required.]

Microscopic scan ensuing!] The A.I. Chip loyally executed Leylin's commands.

[Beep! Target's Data. Strength: 29, Agility: 24, Vitality: 35, Spiritual Force: 19. Has been branded with runes: Flame Extension (for Male use) Effects: Able to store large amounts of flame elemental particles on the surface of the body and use it in battle. Each attack will have an additional damage from flames. All elemental particles can be set off at one go, and the effect is similar to a rank 1 Magus' Lava Fireball. Estimated power: 30 degrees!] [The brand's power is operating normally. Parts of it have mild defects, and is estimated to be completely damaged in 1540 hours.]

With the A.I. Chip's microscope that could analyse on an atomic level, all information about Number 3's brand was presented in front of Leylin.

"This means that instantly formed Branded Swordsman only have a lifespan of two or so months?" Leylin stroked his chin. "There are also some flaws in terms of agility and spiritual force too..."

"However, as cannon fodder that can only be used once, this is enough!"

Leylin thought to himself.

After which, he made plans to exchange all the contribution points he had gained from his work at Four Seasons Garden for grown male Grand Knight slaves.

On the bodies of these two instantly formed Branded Swordsman, Leylin had also made some preparations beforehand to ensure they were completely under his control.

However, due to limitations in terms of his spiritual force and other areas, the A.I. Chip had calculated that he was only capable of controlling five Branded Swordsman at a time!

Only if a few out of the five Branded Swordsman died, leaving a vacant spot, could Leylin put his abilities to use and fill the spot with other Branded Swordsman.

This was not the optimal situation, but for Leylin now, this was the best he could do.

As a rank 1 Magus, Leylin was able to control five considerably powerful Branded Swordman. If rumours of this got out, it would definitely shock the entire south coast!

“Compress!”

After gathering data and finishing his experiments, Leylin pressed a strange looking rune onto Number 3’s back.

Instantly, a large amount of fire elemental particles lingering around Number 3’s body dulled, and the energy waves from his body began to weaken until he was at the level of a Grand Knight.

This was the technique he had made sense of using the information about spiritual force compression method the old witch had given him.

By using external forces to control the energy waves in the target’s body, others’ senses would be confused.

The Branded Swordsman was Leylin’s secret trump card and he naturally didn’t want to be discovered so quickly. Hence, putting on an act and concealing his strength was necessary.

Next, Leylin repeated what he had done to Number 3 on Number 2’s body.

After ordering these two Grand Knights to stay in the laboratory, Leylin left for the Four Seasons Garden’s library.

Usually, there would be a few official Magi or acolytes reading up or conversing. Though there were a lot of people, it was orderly and surprisingly quiet.

The library was now extremely quiet, but it just seemed desolate.

Desks and chairs that would always be filled were unoccupied, and there were the occasional leaves and petals from the garden landing on the seats. It was deathly still and lonely.

“My Lord!” An old manager was still at his post in the library. Upon seeing Leylin, even the decorative items on his body seemed to brighten up, and he bowed in greeting.

“No need for that! There seems to very few people now.” Leylin leaned against the counter and spoke casually.

“All acolytes have left after receiving missions. I’ve never seen so few people in Four Seasons Garden before!” The old manager gave a bitter smile.

“Missions? Now? Could it be to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane ?” Leylin found that inconceivable.

In the battle between Magi, acolytes were naught but cannon fodder. Other than large-scale spell formations which might be somewhat effective, the acolytes were normally just easy kills for Magi.

This maneuver by Four Seasons Garden was just irrational.

“Of course, they aren’t going to go that deeply into the secret plane!” The old manager quickly explained to Leylin.

“Though many of those heading to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane are official Magi, there are also numerous wandering acolyte who have no fear of death. They had thoughts of going in to try their luck! The great Magi naturally did not bother with them, and now it’s our turn to be sent out...”

“After all, the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane is humongous. With a bit of luck, level 3 acolytes might not meet with opposing official Magi and make off with plenty of resources safely. Hence, there are some fearless level 3 acolytes who accepted the missions our Four Seasons Garden issued to explore the secret plane.”

It could be seen that the old manager was well informed, as Leylin himself was unaware about some of what he had said.

“Thank you!” Leylin continued, “Set up an entrance card for me. I want to go to the library’s secret room!”

Leylin then placed his identity token on the counter.

The old geezer processed everything quickly, and not long after, he returned the token and gave a translucent crystal card to Leylin.

“The price to read in the secret room is 10 contribution points per hour. Please take note of the time and leave before all your contribution points are used up.”

The old geezer explained some important matters to Leylin.

Chapter 193: Turin Language

Similar to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, there were restricted areas in the Four Seasons Garden's library.

The place Leylin wanted to go to was the Four Seasons Garden's secret storage room.

In this private room, large amounts of knowledge regarding various subjects were open to official Magi. The fees were extremely expensive, and even the current Leylin was in pain over the costly price.

Although he could copy the information with the A.I. Chip, that still took time.

Leylin had calculated that even if he used up all his contribution points, it would barely give him enough time to record half of the information available in the room.

He had originally planned to amass enough contribution points first and then record all the information at one go.

But now...

Leylin went straight to the second floor of the library and waved his transparent crystal card at an old bookshelf.

Kreeeen! The bookshelf moved backwards, revealing a small passage.

Behind the passage was a small library with strangely shaped books placed on the rows of black wooden bookshelves within.

Some of the books even had pairs of arms and legs, and if not for the iron chains restraining them, they might just stealthily escape.

As he had a goal in mind, Leylin ignored them.

"A.I. Chip! Scan the catalogue. Search keywords: Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, Emergency Passages..."

To find the content he needed from within this extremely extensive library, a lot of time would be wasted. Luckily for him, Leylin had the A.I. Chip, and within a few minutes, he found the information he wanted.

“I see...”

Following the A.I. Chip’s instructions, Leylin came to a corner and flipped through a very old book.

It was extremely thick and heavy, and the cover was an ashen grey. The A.I. Chip judged that this book was made of a very special ancient stone material.

This method of bookmaking belonged to an interesting group of tiny sub-humans—the Stone Men!

This was a race that had an appearance extremely similar to that of humans, but the main difference was the thick layer of calcite on their skin, which looked very much like someone casting a stone-skin spell.

Leylin read through this large book made of stone. On one of the pages, a strange spell formation had been carefully recorded.

“It’s this one! It’s more than 90% similar to the spell formation in the secret plane of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect!” Leylin’s expression brightened up.

Right before his eyes, the A.I. Chip brought up a picture of the ancient spell formation that he had obtained from the secret plane. He then compared it to the spell formation that was recorded down, and came to a conclusion that the two had a similarity of over 90%!

“That’s astonishing!”

Leylin continued analysing it, looking increasingly cautious.

Only now did he realise the true purpose of that spell formation—teleportation!

In the secret room that Leylin had found a corpse in while escaping, there still existed an ancient teleportation formation!

This type of teleportation formation could instantaneously teleport a few Magi to a distance further than several times the length of the south coast. However, due to the geologic faults and the extinction of crucial ingredients, the current south coast no longer had traces of these

formations.

The Stone Men then were the best slaves that the ancient Magi used to construct the teleportation formations. It was because of this reason that there were records of this race.

“So in the space between levels in the emergency passage, there’s actually an ancient teleportation formation?”

Just the thought of it made Leylin breathe more quickly.

The south coast was surrounded by regions filled with varying levels of danger. In some places, rank 2 or 3 Magi would only be sending themselves to their death if they went there!

It was because of the existence of such dangers that the Magi in the south coast would rather have an internal strife every once in a while to reduce the number of Magi than venture outwards. They were unwilling to expand the territory and gain more resources.

Even if Leylin wanted to leave the south coast and look for traces of the central mainland, he had no way to leave!

However, with the appearance of the ancient teleportation spell formation, Leylin saw a glimmer of hope!

If he had tremendous luck and found a new land, how much profit would Leylin receive as the controller of the transportation pathway to there?

“No, I can’t do this! Calm down! Calm down! Whether this ancient teleportation formation can still be used or not, and where it leads to are all unknown. To make effective use of it, I have to answer all of these questions!”

Leylin stroked his chin and calmed his emotions.

He then produced a tattered diary from within his robes. “I might be able to find an answer with information from this diary.”

In the secret compartment within the emergency passage, not only did Leylin find the ancient teleportation formation, but he also found what

seemed to be the remains of a high-ranking Magus of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect. In addition, he also found some miscellaneous items and this diary on the deceased Magus' body.

The first thing Leylin did upon returning was to order the A.I. Chip to record all of the information in this tattered diary.

Unfortunately, the language used in the diary was not one that the A.I. Chip was able to interpret. This made it difficult for Leylin to decipher the information within!

“Those strange people in black gowns who like to enslave spirits preferred to use an odd language and characters to issue commands. As long as we didn't understand, we would be punished cruelly, which forced us to learn the name of that damned Turin Language!”

In the Stone Men's books, Leylin found this written account.

“No wonder the A.I. Chip couldn't interpret the contents of the diary. So it was the Turin Language!” Leylin suddenly understood.

The Turin Language was an exclusive language used in ancient times, which used special sound waves and light rays to transmit information. Even its characters contrasted hugely compared to other existing languages.

There were no records of this Turin Language in the A.I. Chip's database.

“Turin Language?”

Leylin went around the bookshelf, and in a corner, he finally found a few books that seemed to be written in the Turin Language. There was even a book that gave a concise introduction to interpreting this language.

“A.I. Chip, scan it!”

In his excitement, Leylin hurriedly opened one of the books and ordered the A.I. Chip to record it down...

“My Lord, it's already time for dinner. Are you planning to enjoy a dinner party here? Your contribution points are almost completely used up at this

point...”

Leylin was immersed in the sea of knowledge and was using the A.I. Chip to translate and restore the information in the diary.

In summary, there was a crazy Magus who kept using spirits to create the Gargamel. In the end, the experiment backfired on him. This was truly a tragic story.

What made Leylin most gleeful were the few images similar to the ancient teleportation formation that he found at the back of the diary.

Based on the images, as well as some speculations on the A.I. Chip’s part, Leylin would be able to test whether the formation was still workable.

Now in a marvellous mood, Leylin didn’t bother with the old manager and glanced at his crystal card. “I got it. I’ll be right out!”

Disregarding the old man, who was bowing so deeply his head touched the floor, Leylin jogged out of the library.

“A.I. Chip! Based on the information from just now, how complete was the previously recorded ancient teleportation formation?”

Leylin asked a little nervously.

[Beep! Mission established, sorting through information regarding teleportation, and comparing...]

The A.I. Chip’s mechanical voice sounded.

On the virtual screen in front of Leylin, large numbers of words and images flashed past, with the formation that had been previously recorded placed in the very centre.

[Beep! Comparison results: Completion of teleportation formation: 98.8%. Situation on other end of formation unknown, unable to calculate!]

The A.I. Chip’s answer made Leylin grin even more brightly.

Though there was still a troublesome Gargamel in the secret plane, Leylin felt that it would be in a hurry to escape. The secret compartment

was hidden well, and there was a high chance that it was still well preserved.

The most important thing was the source of energy!

“Even ancient teleportation formations needed a source of power! A.I. Chip, what does this formation need to be usable?”

Leylin asked.

[Magic crystal essence, or some object that contains a dense amount of energy particles!] The A.I. Chip intoned.

“Magic crystal essence huh? The magic crystal cards aren’t enough?” Leylin asked.

[Beep! The energy contained within is not enough, will require a purifying process to condense the energy. Projected ingredients: 10,000 magic crystal cards or more!]

The A.I. Chip’s reply made Leylin’s legs wobble.

“Ten thousand magic crystal cards? A single card has a value of over a thousand magic crystals! Ten thousand magic crystal cards would mean that I will need over ten million magic crystals?!”

After a year of amassing resources from the light and dark Magi, the magic crystals and materials he had amassed only amounted to a value of less than five million!

And this A.I. Chip said that it needed twice that amount!

In addition, the A.I. Chip only needed magic crystal cards. Leylin needed to exchange large amounts of resources, magic items, knowledge, potions, and the like for magic crystals. This exchange would result in him racking up huge losses due to his pressing need for them.

“So many magic crystals... I’m afraid there will only be that amount stored in a few large scale Magus organisations’ resource-based secret planes.”

Leylin then shook his head. “This isn’t the time to think about that. There isn’t anything that requires me to risk my life, and even if it’s the

Third Great Magus War, it is still limited to within the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, and won't have much of an impact on the outside world!"

Currently, in the Third Great Magus War, the main reason for the fighting was a dispute over the rights to the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, so the various disputes and conflicts had been taking place within it.

According to Leylin's guess, this slice of the cake was way too big, and no single organisation would be capable of devouring it whole. It would definitely be shared with the various large magisteriums and guilds.

As for what Four Seasons Garden and the other guilds had to do, it was to do their best to fight for a larger share!

Chapter 194: Blackmail

While freely strolling through the streets, Leylin heard an odd sound travel into his ears.

“We’re in such a dangerous situation, and yet you’re still so relaxed... It looks like I need to make a suggestion to Decarte for him to give you a more challenging job.”

The tone of this voice was icy, giving Leylin the impression he had attracted the attention of a ravenous wolf.

Leylin gave a helpless laugh and scratched his nose, after which he turned back and gave a bow. “Lord Caesar!”

In front of him was a Magus clothed in a black robe. There were several blood-red threads that decorated the robe, and bloodlust constantly emanated from him.

What was most unforgettable was the eye on his forehead!

This three-eyed Magus was naturally Caesar of the hunting team. He was an elitist, and firmly believed in one’s origin, so after Leylin entered Four Seasons Garden, he just didn’t like Leylin and constantly caused him trouble.

“Wasn’t his entire hunting team deployed into the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane? Did something happen that required him to rush back and report?”

While Leylin made his conjectures, he explained himself to Caesar. “I, your subordinate, have completed all missions required for me to receive my monthly allocations, and have decided to take a walk to settle my mind.”

“I see! Hehe, you’re very capable. There might be a position that suits you better...”

Unexpectedly, Caesar did not inconvenience him, and only said something profound before leaving.

Leylin was left standing on the road, deep in thought.

“What did he mean by that?”

Soon enough, Leylin found out the meaning to Caesar’s words.

During dinner, a banquet was held in the hall. Members of the Potioneering team gathered in the hall and enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

Hazelnut chicken, roasted suckling pig, honey wine, and other delicious commonplace dishes were everywhere, arranged like trash on every corner.

At the centre of the table, there were also various delicacies that were only available in the Magus World.

Bubble fish! Dolosen Snake! Butter Yak! In addition, a lot of treasured ingredients that Leylin didn’t even know the names of were arranged neatly there.

The alluring smell of fine wine spread in the air, tempting everyone’s palate.

“There must have been much blood shed by the acolytes in preparing these dishes.”

Leylin picked up a piece of baked bubble fish, and while his taste buds enjoyed the new experience, he heaved an inward sigh of content.

This bubble fish was a high energy creature in the Magus World with a strength of a level 2 or 3 acolyte.

The Four Seasons Garden’s magic kitchen specifically issued requests for acolytes to gather the fish.

Behind this feast, there were the blood, sweat, and tears of countless acolytes who had gone on dangerous expeditions. The results of their efforts, which had garnered them some insignificant returns, eventually turned into gourmet food on the official Magi’s tables!

“It’s for this reason that I hope to become the person who will deprive others, and not get deprived myself!”

Leylin had a resolute look in his eyes while still maintaining a kind smile about his lips. He took another roasted pig trotter and put it on his plate.

With the nearing of his bloodline's second transition, Leylin could feel abnormalities in his usual condition.

The most obvious one was a heightened appetite, particularly for the flesh of considerably strong, high-energy creatures.

After the sumptuous dinner, Decarte knocked on a golden cup on the table.

Ding-ling!

The entire room instantly turned silent. Leylin and the other Magi stood, waiting for the Potioneering team's leader to issue missions and inform them of any arrangements.

"Everyone! Before we get into the important matters, let me announce something!"

Decarte looked at the Magi present and cleared his throat.

"Today, the hunting team's Caesar looked for me, hoping to have a few Potion Masters join him! You must know that in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, there are frequent battles, resulting in a lack of healers. Many Potion Masters can use potions to achieve the same effect as healers."

Hearing Decarte's words, Leylin's heart suddenly lurched.

"Now, I'll announce the list of people to be sent there. They are Wilkenson, Saladin... and lastly, Leylin!"

As expected, Decarte increased his volume and read out Leylin's name last.

In that instant, Leylin felt countless pairs of eyes staring at him.

Within these gazes were thoughts of curiosity, worry, and most prominently, schadenfreude.

His ostensible team leader was sighing heavily by the side. After Leylin left, with Martin's abilities, it would be impossible to tackle the heavy

workload that resulted from the war. However, Martin did not have the courage to dispute it, since this was the decision of the Potioneering team's leader.

"Oh, my heavens! Leylin! What do we do?"

His partner, Oak, seemed to be completely stunned and gaped at Leylin.

"Don't worry! Even if I am sent to the battlefield, I'll most likely be working at the back, and won't be in any real danger!" Seeing that there was someone who genuinely worried for him, a smile appeared on Leylin's face.

In reality, was there any place on a battlefield that was absolutely safe, especially when he was directly under that three-eyed Magus, Caesar?

The moment he heard Decarte announce his name, Leylin immediately thought about Caesar's cryptic smile.

"The aforementioned Magi have five days to prepare, after which they will be required to go to Four Seasons Garden's branch at the Eternal River Plains' secret plane and report. Otherwise, you will be seen as a traitor!"

Decarte seemed to be warning them at the end.

After offending the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the Lilytell family, which were both large dark Magi powers, Leylin had no wish to become enemies with an even stronger white Magi organisation.

If it came to that, he would no longer have a place on the south coast.

.....

A day later, Leylin hastily organised everything and brought his two Great Knight servants along. They set off for the Eternal River Plains.

The sun shone mercilessly in the sky.

Smoke and dust flew above the ground, and not far away, the air seemed to be distorted.

This torrid heat meant there were almost no people walking on the main street.

Thud Thud Thud! At this moment, three quick horses hurtled past destroying the calmness and quiet atmosphere on this road.

“Master! There’s some shade in front. Shall we take a break there?”

Number 2 reined in his horse and asked Leylin, who was riding behind him.

“Let us take a rest. Although we can still manage, the poor horses can’t anymore!”

Leylin pointed to the horses, which were on the verge of frothing at the mouth.

Behind him, there were a few idle horses, on top of which were boxes and the other luggage they needed had been tied down. They looked listless, with their ears pressed to their heads, and the light in their eyes dim.

If Leylin was travelling alone, he naturally could travel on the Venom Wyvern.

However, he had to bring his two Grand Knight subordinates and even had to haul around a large amount of luggage. With this large amount of things, it naturally exceeded the burden that the Venom Wyvern could carry.

The Nightless City didn’t have any airships that could directly transport people to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, so Leylin could only rely on the most primitive method, which was traveling on horseback.

As for the Venom Wyvern, Leylin commanded it to scout the area in the sky and accompany them on their journey.

“Master! Here’s some water!”

Leylin found a clean rock for himself to sit on. Number 3, who was behind him, passed him a large leather pouch.

“En!” Leylin drank from it.

Although the temperature did not impact his vitality very much, the ice cold water washing down his throat gave him a very refreshing sensation.

“Hmmm?”

Suddenly, a gray fog covered the area surrounding the shade of the trees they were under.

Under the dim light, the various branches of the trees looked like the hands of monsters, as if wanting to grab hold of Leylin and the group.

At the same time, a drowsy feeling began to enshroud the three of them.

“Who is it?” Number 2 and Number 3 expanded their muscles and were ready to emit energy waves.

Leylin’s icy glare stopped them, and they stiffly collapsed onto the floor.

“Hei Hei... Blood Rogue, these two Grand Knights of yours have been modified well! They can actually defend against my hypnosis!” The voice of a little boy travelled over.

Leylin’s brows furrowed as he heard the name ‘Blood Rogue’.

He was still dressed as a normal Magus, yet this dark Magus from the Thousand Meddling Hands had actually seen through his disguise. From the looks of it, despite his efforts to conceal his identity, part of what he had done had been too high profile, resulting in the discovery of his identity.

It was very likely that even the Four Seasons Garden had similar suspicions about him!

It was because of this that Decarte was glad to see Caesar deploy Leylin elsewhere, and even chairman Reynold did not have any objections.

“Boy! What’s the matter?”

Since he had been found out, Leylin asked bluntly.

“Hehe... This is about Old Devil. She is an elder of the organisation after all, and it’s not known whether she is currently alive or dead. ‘Boss’ had instructed us to investigate thoroughly. According to what I know, her final appearance was to invite you and Brass Ring to participate in an expedition...”

“You’re correct! However, Brass Ring had perished inside! As for Old Devil, she is currently not able to leave! As for the secret plane’s location, I have no comments about that!”

Leylin did not believe that they would be this concerned about her whereabouts. It was more likely that they were coveting Old Devil’s position as an elder!

As expected, after hearing Leylin’s answer, the boy snickered. “You’re the Blood Rogue, after all! The way you work is straightforward and clear-cut! Let’s stop talking about Old Devil and move on. I currently bring you a mission from Boss!”

With the mention of this boss, the boy sounded more serious.

“What’s the meaning of this? Since when does the Thousand Meddling Hands force missions on their members?” Leylin wrinkled his brows. From the looks of it, the all-powerful dark Magus behind the Thousand Meddling Hands had finally been lured to the surface.

“Of course, there wasn’t anything like this before! However, it’s all different now! I believe that you will definitely do something for the organisation in order to protect your identity. Am I right, Leylin—or shall I say, Blood Rogue!”

The boy began to threaten him, a hint of arrogance apparent in his tone.

Chapter 195: Impetuous

“What mission?” Leylin asked expressionlessly. However, if there were people around him who knew him well, they would be able to tell how annoyed he was.

“The main purpose of you going to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane is to pass on information from the internal unit of Four Seasons Garden. At crucial moments, you are to coordinate with us and destroy the defense formations within!”

The boy sounded incredibly arrogant, making Leylin more annoyed.

“That means I’d be an undercover, right? How about that agreement I signed? If I betray Four Seasons Garden I’ll definitely be punished by the Trial’s Eye, no?”

“That... The boss will take care of it for you!” The boy was obviously insincere.

“In other words, you’re not giving me any benefits and want me to give up my life for you! Do you guys think I’m so easy to bully?”

Leylin suddenly laughed sarcastically, a red colour flashing in his eyes.

Rumble!

Immediately after he spoke, Leylin brazenly attacked!

Countless fireballs the size of human heads hurtled towards the boy’s direction.

The intense flames swept everywhere, and the mist was quickly evaporated, revealing the figure of a little boy in a darkened corner.

“Are you crazy?” The boy roared, outraged.

“You’re the crazy ones! How dare you threaten me!”

Leylin coldly replied, his two hands becoming completely red as they clawed forward mercilessly.

Crimson Palm! Blood Rogue’s famous move!

Huge blood-red claws swept across the air, grand flames burning atop the phantom claws.

With the added bonus from Leylin's elemental essence conversion, this spell had already reached a strength of almost 34 degrees!

"Fuck!"

The little boy was in bad shape after the bout of fireballs being thrown at him despite rolling and trying to dodge the attack. He was dusty all over and looked like a clown.

After seeing Leylin using Blood Rogue's move, his entire face changed.

Who knew Leylin would be so crazy and so powerful? His might far surpassed that of a semi-converted Magus.

The little boy had thought that he had blackmail material on his hands. He knew of Leylin's identity and the moment he told Leylin he expected that Leylin would obediently do as the boy ordered, just like a loyal dog, which would allow the boy to gain some additional benefits.

But he never imagined that Leylin would not hesitate and attack with no qualms!

Upon seeing those claws, the boy made a strange sound and quickly tugged at a strange pendant from his chest and threw it on the ground.

Chi Chi

Numerous ice crystals emerged, forming a sparkling and translucent ice mirror in front of the little boy.

Bang!

The huge, sharp phantom claws had traces of crimson flames and crashed against the mirror, producing an immense sound.

Weng Weng

Flames and ice crystals flew everywhere.

Each time an ice crystal fell, a thick layer of ice would form on the ground. Anything that came into contact with the crimson flames

corroded, whether they be trees, moles or even rocks. Everything turned into a pile of grey powder!

“You thought a high-grade scroll could save you? How naive!”

Leylin strode forward, chasing after the boy.

“This is a magic scroll with instantaneous casting that I spent 250 thousand magic crystals on!” An expression of regret and rage formed on his face, and his muscles were twitching.

“You dare to... You actually dare to... You will pay!”

As he yelled, he produced a magic item that was emitting strong energy waves, ready to attack!

“Imprison!”

At the same time, Leylin made a low howl, and on his right arm, a metal hoop that seemed to be a decoration suddenly gave off light and shone on his body.

The boy who had been targeted by the Hoop of Imprisonment was like an insect stuck in amber, completely immobile and unable to use the magic item in his hands.

“You dare to threaten me?”

Leylin advanced, kicking the magic item out of the boy’s hands and lifted him with one arm.

“You... There are still many others behind me that know your identity. The moment I die here, you’ll... Argh!”

The little boy forced out words from the gap between his teeth, but all that answered him was a vicious slap to the face.

Pa Pa Pa Pa!

Leylin’s strength was 7.1, and this merciless slaps to the boy’s face made both his cheeks swell up instantly. Some of his teeth fell and his mouth was full of blood, rendering him unable to pronounce properly.

After slapping the boy, Leylin grabbed him by the neck and raised him to

eye level.

“Don’t even think about blackmailing me, or you’ll die a terrible death!”

“You think I’m afraid of having my identity exposed? Hehe... At most, we’ll part ways and I’ll wander around. Before that, however, I will kill you, no matter who is backing you!”

A dark, menacing look arose in Leylin’s eyes, shaking the boy to the core.

Too scary! This boy was thoroughly terrified!

He was now extremely regretful. This Leylin was basically a lunatic and dreaded nothing. He had a premonition that if he continued with this unyielding attitude, Leylin would definitely kill him!

At this moment, it was as if he had been drenched from head to toe by a bucket of cold water—his head cleared up immediately.

“Uh... Lo-Lord Leylin! I apologise. Please forgive me for my offense!”

As his mouth was very swollen, his words weren’t clear but the meaning was understandable.

“What did you say? Louder!” Leylin mocked with a sneer, tightening the strength in his hand.

Hearing a strange sound emitted from his neck, the boy, who even had his innate spells suppressed completely, gave up.

He trembled violently, tears and snot dripping down his face. “Lord Leylin! Lord Leylin, I was wrong! Please forgive me!”

Leylin peered at him curiously, making him feel as if he was facing an imminent catastrophe.

Suddenly, Leylin released his hand and the boy fell to the floor.

He breathed in fresh air in huge gulps, an unexpected sense of blessed relief in his heart.

Of course, his head was still lowered lifelessly and he did not dare meet Leylin’s gaze.

“People only reveal their true self when in the face of death...” Leylin

looked at the pitiful state the boy was in and sighed to himself.

“Get lost! Have the person backing you to speak to me!”

At the same time, Leylin bent and picked up the magic item the boy had dropped.

It was something like a dagger. Based on the A.I. Chip’s probe, the level of energy within had reached that of a middle-grade magic artifact.

“Also, this magic artifact will now belong to me as the price of offending me!”

If not for the fact that a rank 2 Magus was behind this boy and also wanting to avoid having a falling out with Thousand Meddling Hands, Leylin would have killed him long ago.

However, he had released the boy, but Leylin definitely wanted him to pay the price in pain. If not, this sort of person would keep appearing in front of him.

Seeing the boy who was escaping, scared witless, Leylin contemplated.

This resource-based secret plane’s size was unprecedented in history and was an enormous chunk of fleshy meat. Even a rank 2 Magus operating the Thousand Meddling Hands from the shadows had been lured out.

And behind the rank 2 Magus, there were definitely other large organisations from the dark Magi region.

After all, with just a Thousand Meddling Hands, all they could do was reap the convenient benefits. How else would they have the chance to participate in such a large-scale battle?

“This is like a game of chess. How annoying!”

Leylin had a feeling that if he went to the secret plane, he would definitely be embroiled in a troublesome spiral of events.

Unfortunately, the pressure given by the dark and light Magi gave him no choice but to move like a chess piece, based on a pre-decided route.

“You want to make use of me? I wonder if you’re ready yet.”

Looking at the sky in the distance, Leylin smirked.

The Thousand Meddling Hands’ reaction was extremely quick. That night, Leylin saw the person backing the boy.

The orange rays of light of the setting sun constantly became duller, until the black curtain of night shrouded the area.

Just as Number 2 and Number 3 were preparing to set up tents, Leylin shot a glance at a white owl on a large tree nearby.

“I’m going to take a walk alone. You don’t have to come with me!”

“Yes, master!” Number 2 and Number 3 answered in unison.

Following the white owl, Leylin came to the side of a curved river. On a white and large rock, a figure could be seen standing erect.

Around him was a thick green fog emanating throughout, blocking his face entirely.

“Giant?” Leylin asked, surprised.

For his first mission, Leylin had worked with Giant, whose prowess indicated the peak of a rank 1 Magus. He had never thought that this would be the one supporting the little boy!

“He’s already told me everything that happened just now. He was a little too much, so I hope to apologise on his behalf! You may take the bloody dagger, a magic artifact, as compensation!”

Giant’s voice was low and soothing and did not speak up for the little boy which made Leylin so shocked.

“I know a bit about you. The organisation definitely will treat those who contribute to us well! As long as you do this job well, I’m telling you that you can get about 50% profit! We can even mediate between you and the Lilytell family, so that you can return to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Of course, you can choose other dark Magi organisations. Our door is always open to you...”

The Giant's offer exceeded Leylin's expectations.

To allow him to suppress the situation with Lilytell family and return to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, this Thousand Meddling Hands' power was probably far from what he could imagine.

"What about the contract with the Trial's Eye?" Leylin asked for information about what he was most concerned about.

Chapter 196: Acquaintances

“I signed the contract under the witness of the Trial’s Eye, promising not to do anything that would harm Four Seasons Garden’s interests! If I go back on that agreement, I would undergo judgment...”

This was Leylin’s largest concern.

If he had the choice, he didn’t want to harm Four Seasons Garden since they had treated him quite well from the beginning.

“That’s easily solved! Here is a solution of Filthy Birds’ wings. As long as you have it, you can nullify your contract with the Four Seasons Garden!”

Giant threw a bottle of grey solution towards Leylin.

“You even have items that are already extinct!” Leylin caught the bottle and let the A.I. Chip test the authenticity of the item. The results made him gasp.

With such a degree of preparation, it wouldn’t be a stretch to say that this had been premeditated long ago.

“Hehe... This isn’t mine but belongs to the ‘Boss’ behind me. He especially left this for you from his own collection!”

Giant did not claim the credit for himself and used a straightforward tone, which made Leylin slightly fearful.

“So, what’s your answer?”

“Acknowledging the strength of others is the instinct of all dark Magi. I first need to verify your strength!” Leylin pondered for a moment and then spoke.

“You will see...” Giant’s voice began to be less discernible.

Large amounts of green mist shrouded the surrounding area, enveloping Leylin within.

Some time later, the mist dispersed and Leylin left, his expression serious. He seemed to be worrying about many things.

“I never thought it’d be him...”

Following which, Leylin calmed himself and returned to his accommodations, as if nothing had happened.

After a night passed, Leylin continued on his journey.

The Eternal River Plains were situated at the border between the light and dark Magi’s territories. Security there was the most chaotic.

Here, even within the city, armed confrontations, robbery, murder, and other crimes happened daily. At times, there would even be the occasional battle between Magi!

In this situation, the guards of the city were more like professional corpse carriers and were in charge of clearing the roads everyday.

After Eternal River Plains’ secret plane had been discovered, a large number of Magi flowed in, causing even more chaos in this place.

On the way, just the number of people who were looking to seek revenge was above 15. This meant that every once in awhile, there would be someone with such a motivation.

If not for Leylin and his group wearing clothing that gave them an air of mystery, even Magi like them might meet with some trouble.

After walking out of a city of regular humans, Leylin suddenly started, seeming to have seen some familiar figures.

“Master, what’s wrong? Is there something wrong with those acolytes?”

Number 2 and 3 approached him and enquired.

“It’s nothing!” Leylin answered casually. Even if it was them, they were from two different worlds. Leylin wasn’t planning on maintaining any contact with them, and passing them by. This might be the best for them.

Sometimes, however, fate was such a strange thing that could not be hindered.

Just as Leylin was hastening his travelling and leaving the gates, he bumped into those acolytes from earlier.

“Leylin! Hi! Leylin! Is that you?” Within the group of acolytes, a tall young man standing in the front was yelling excitedly.

They had been quite a distance away previously, but now that they met, the acolyte opposite to Leylin had instantly recognised him.

“Long time no see!” Leylin watched the acolytes, who were moving forward attentively, and couldn’t help but give a gentle smile in greeting.

After strengthening his body, Leylin’s physique and sight had vastly improved. He could easily see that out of all the acolytes, the one who had shouted was very tall and had a head of long golden hair, thick eyebrows, large eyes, and a high nose bridge.

There was also a female acolyte with an exquisitely curvy body, silver hair and eyes like rubies. She constantly emanated an exotic charm.

Leylin immediately recognised these two acolytes. They were the people he hadn’t seen in ages—George and Bessita!

“But isn’t George an acolyte at the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower? Why is he together with Bessita, who’s from Wetland Gardens Academy?”

This thought went through his mind for a split second before he was interrupted, as George had brought Bessita and the others to approach him.

“Leylin, it’s really you! I thought I’d gotten the wrong person!”

George was a good friend that he’d made on that first journey in the beginning, and just like before, he affectionately gave Leylin a bear hug.

Bessita, on the other hand, was twiddling her fingers at the side, seemingly embarrassed.

At the beginning, she had caused much trouble for Leylin. Of course, after Leylin had viciously beat up her ‘flower guardian’ as a threat to her, this woman had become very silent.

However, she was still able to pass the magician aptitude test and enter the Wetland Gardens Academy.

“Hi, Leylin.” Bessita looked to be rather indifferent.

“Come here! Leylin, let me introduce you. This is Alexander!” George pointed at a youth with reddish-brown hair.

“This here is Lana! And the beauty in pink clothing is our long distance attacker— Shiera!”

After that, George introduced the two female acolytes beside him. Lana was alright, but Sheira aggressively pinched the flesh on George’s waist. He immediately let out exaggerated sounds of pain; it looked as if these two had a less innocent relationship.

Leylin couldn’t help but glance at Sheila more closely. She wore pink hunter gear that exposed a pair of milky white thighs. She was tall and carried a green wooden bow, looking to be a good match with George.

Even Leylin had to admit that George had pretty good taste.

“Leylin, why aren’t you introducing your two friends here to us?” After saying that, George mock punched Leylin’s chest, which stunned him a little.

He looked at his own attire and then responded.

For the sake of convenience while travelling, Leylin and his two Grand Knights had on civilian clothing. After obtaining the old witch’s spirit force compression method, he would also habitually conceal his energy waves, which indicated that he was an official Magus.

His two spiritually bound slaves were treated the same way.

Hence, George and the others, who were still acolytes, obviously were unable to discover Leylin’s concealment and treated him as a regular acolyte.

“These are my two friends. We met on the way and appeared to be going to the same place. They aren’t very talkative and are a little antisocial!”

Leylin threw a sculpture of a wyvern into Number 2 and Number 3’s hands. “Take this and leave first. We’ll meet at our destination!”

Upon receiving their master’s secret instructions, Number 2 and Number 3 nodded and left on horseback.

“Leylin, it’s best if you’re warier when interacting with them. I always feel uncomfortable around them...”

George looked at the figures of Number 2 and Number 3 as they left, and he whispered to Leylin.

“Don’t worry, I know my limits!”

Leylin nodded.

“Haha... Let’s not talk about this anymore. Leylin, we haven’t met in six or seven years, huh? This time, we have to drink to our heart’s content!”

George naturally put an arm around Leylin’s shoulder, and one could hear his excessive and proud laughter from miles away. “Guess what? Two years ago, I advanced and became a level 3 acolyte! Even my mentor complimented me for this! But it’s not much; it can’t be helped that I only have a fourth-grade aptitude.”

Due to this chance meeting, Leylin and George dispelled all thoughts of leaving the city and returned inside. They found a small bar and prepared to reminisce.

After two beers, Leylin had gleaned everything he wanted to know from George.

George was obviously still a student of Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, and so was his girlfriend, Sheira.

Bessita, Lana, and that guy called Alexander were all acolytes from the Wetland Gardens Academy.

The reason for their trip here was to complete missions issued by their respective academies. George and Bessita knew each other well, so the two little teams naturally travelled together.

“We’re in deep trouble. We were actually allocated a defence mission in which we must enter, as well as establish a presence in the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane!” George had a look of prolonged suffering on his face, and when they got to this topic, even Sheira and Bessita looked gloomy.

The secret plane was under the control of official Magi, and a few

acolytes like them wouldn't be able to create a tiny disarray within. They were but cannon fodder, and could die at any time.

Leylin glanced at these people. In this group of five that had temporarily been banded together, George and Bessita were level 3 acolytes, and the other three had reached level 2. In general, their total power was similar to the group of five acolytes that he had destroyed outside the Zither Moon Town.

"Oh, right! How about you, Leylin? Your aura seems pretty strong. You must be a level 3 acolyte, right?"

George seemed to be asking without any intent. Bessita, who was using a straw to drink her beverage, visibly strained to hear his answer.

"I was lucky enough to advance to a level 3 acolyte a few months ago!" Leylin chuckled.

"It's not easy to advance to a level 3 acolyte! Come! Let us drink to our future as Magi!"

George hid none of his thoughts and yelled, attracting the attention of the surrounding people.

"Cheers!" Six glasses of beer clinked together.

After a bout of drinking, George asked, "Leylin, where are you now? In the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy? Only after entering my academy did I find out that the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was a dark Magus academy that was at odds with us. It's even forbidden for us to communicate with them."

"What? Abyssal Bone Forest?! That Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?"

The moment the words came out of George's mouth, Lana and Alexander were like kittens who had had their tails stepped on, and jumped in shock.

Sheira didn't say anything, but the gaze in her eyes was more guarded when looking at Leylin.

"Alright! Alright! Don't be this tense! Leylin and I are good friends; he is

different from other dark Magi...”

Only then did George realise the slip of his tongue, as he stood and awkwardly gave a closure on the topic.

Chapter 197: George and Bessita

Leylin rubbed his nose upon seeing the cautious expressions of the few people around him.

In the Magus world, dark Magi and light Magi were archenemies. And in the Eternal River Plains, which was surrounded by the opposing forces on each side, not attacking after finding out Leylin was a dark Magus showed the immense trust they had in George.

“I left the domain of the dark Magi a few years ago and now live in Nightless City.”

Leylin thought and spoke a half-truth, “I’m currently studying at Four Seasons Garden.”

“See? I knew it! Leylin, you’re brave and honest. How could someone like you be a cruel dark Magus?”

George laughed out gleefully.

Shiera and the others appeared very embarrassed.

The number of Magi that had been killed by Leylin was not public knowledge, but those Magi would have been furious after hearing George’s words.

“Oh, by the way, Leylin, are you going to the secret plane?”

The Eternal River’s secret plane was a major event that triggered an earth-shaking response among the Magi of the south coast. The information regarding the secret plane had spread very quickly, and George and the others were not entirely clueless about it.

Leylin saw George’s anxious look and the other acolytes’ trading gazes, and he immediately understood.

It seemed that George thought Leylin to be one of the acolytes, who were naive and wanted to try their luck within the secret plane.

Of course, this wasn’t surprising since after news about the secret plane spread, acolytes and Magi alike from all over started to convene at this

location.

The whole journey was laced with danger. Some died en route, and others would struggle at the entrance and be unable to enter, while others were lured or coerced by the larger powers and became cannon fodder.

There was an extremely small minority of acolytes who would be successful in acquiring some resources from the secret plane and return to Nightless City and other Magi cities. This resulted in a reaction from the magicians in the cities, which in turn incited more acolytes to adventure into the plane.

It was clear that George and the others also considered Leylin to be just like these acolytes.

“Leylin...” George turned silent, seeming to be carefully considering his next words. “The danger inside the secret plane is not something that we acolytes can handle. Only the official Magi, who are the main forces inside the plane, can stay within for long durations of time.”

“Many of my friends suffered inside. You’re still young and need not...”

“Just let him go!” Bessita suddenly spoke up.

“If he’s lucky, he can get some resources and even advance!”

George furrowed his brows. How could one count on such a thing as luck? Bessita was speaking of it too lightly.

“Actually, I was issued a mission by the academy. I have no choice but to go inside the secret plane.” Leylin sardonically stated.

“I see... No wonder then. I warned you only because it doesn’t seem to be in your nature to undertake such a dangerous task.” George patted his close friend’s shoulder in empathy and forced a smile.

“In this situation, we are probably all in the same boat and might even be assigned to the same location. After all, within the secret plane, the light Magi have gathered and created an alliance.”

After hearing that Leylin had been forced to come to the secret plane just like them, Shiera, Alexander, and the others revealed expressions of

sympathy. Leylin's situation was one they could empathise with.

These kinds of missions were usually suicidal by nature. Only those who had no backing or acolytes who had offended important people would be dispatched by their academies to complete these missions.

When he turned, he saw a hint of an expression on Bessita's face. Something that seemed like... delight?

"Is this girl still brooding over what happened last time?"

Leylin inwardly grinned and actually found this a novelty.

At his current level, he had already left Bessita far in the dust.

Many Magi had died at Leylin's hands; what trouble could a lowly acolyte cause?

No matter how she bared her fangs and made threatening gestures at Leylin, she was akin to a small kitten playing with him.

"Since we're all going the same way, how about you join us too, Leylin?"

At this moment, George put forth a proposal.

"Sure!" Leylin gauged that he still had quite a bit of time and, considering the speed at which George and his friends were travelling, he could reach the Eternal River Plain's secret plane well before the deadline. Thus, he agreed.

His relationship with George was quite good, so he could help out if the need arose.

Besides, there were still some matters that needed to be resolved between him and Bessita.

"Very good. Since Leylin's a level 3 acolyte as well, our combined battle strength has increased by a lot. Even if we meet a bandit, there's no need to be afraid." George seemed very excited.

The other acolytes did not refute him.

"Bandit? You're actually afraid of bandits?" Leylin asked, rather stunned. In his mind, the so-called bandits were just peasant farmers with grass

pitchforks and fishing spears.

“Oh, you don’t know about this?” George seemed to be even more amazed than Leylin. “I can’t believe you came this far when you’re so overwhelming ignorant about the whole situation!”

Immediately, George carefully explained to Leylin, “If it was a bandit group composed of only ordinary humans, then there’s no need for us to worry. Shiera can single-handedly kill all those who come. However, the situation at the Eternal River Plains is different. Due to the number of acolytes travelling there alone, bandit groups that specifically target magicians have appeared. There are even rumours that official Magi are behind these bandit groups.”

Due to large increase in the number of magicians travelling to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, the public security in that area was extremely chaotic. Some scattered dark magicians naturally had the idea to fight for the resources.

However, as these dark magicians were mostly acolytes, their strength was inadequate when compared to Leylin.

If they were official Magi, the greedy dark magicians would be unwilling to attack, but if they were mere acolytes, then they would not be as hesitant. Compared to the light Magi, who had grown in a protected environment like flowers in a greenhouse, acolytes on the dark side who had matured under the law of the jungle were obviously more powerful in battle. With their superior fighting instincts and their manipulation of timing when attacking, they were far more capable than their light acolyte peers.

Most of the acolytes in the area, especially those who were leaving, might be carrying some precious resources from the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. If bandits ran into any of these acolytes, it would be enough for them to make a fortune!

There were several dark magician acolytes that had these thoughts.

Hence, the way to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane was full of danger.

Many acolytes who were dreaming of panning for gold usually died before reaching the secret plane.

Leylin thought back to how he had not run into any big bandit groups during his journey.

Occasionally, he had encountered a few inexperienced local thieves that had been dealt with by Number 2 and Number 3.

These two men had already advanced after receiving the incomplete runes of Branded Swordsmen and all ordinary men or acolytes were easily dealt with with a few sword attacks.

“So that’s what’s happening. It seems that I’ve been rather lucky.” Leylin massaged his temples and laughed.

“I can’t help saying this, but man, your luck is too good! However, this has just been the outlying areas. As we continue to travel further into the Eternal River Plains, there will be more of these kinds of bandits. As the light Magi will focus all their energy on the secret plane, some entrances might have a generous amount of warnings placed, but other regions will just be disregarded...”

George had a good grasp of Leylin’s character and knew that this friend of his was not what he seemed to be on the surface. He was sure to have some trump cards.

He wasn’t wrong either, since Leylin knew how to adapt to circumstances and act accordingly.

The stronger Leylin was, the more secure his band of comrades would be. If he continued asking further, it would only result in Leylin being pressured to leave, which did not work well for their situation.

It was but a mere assumption, but since Leylin could advance to a level 3 acolyte so quickly and receive solo missions, that meant he definitely had a great trump card. Poor George didn’t even consider the possibility that Leylin had already advanced to an official Magus.

After all, there was a wide chasm between a level 3 acolyte and the realm of official Magi.

Even if it was the most amazing genius, promoting to the Magus realm before 30 years of age was in itself a most outstanding speed of advancement.

George, who knew that Leylin only had a third-grade aptitude, did not bother considering that all.

“Good! Now that you’re a member of our group, let’s enjoy a toast.” George, as always, was very welcoming and put an arm around Leylin’s shoulder, patting Leylin’s chest with his other arm.

“At least we’re not lacking good wine nor beautiful women. Do you see that red-clothed beauty beside the bar counter? She’s making bedroom eyes at you. If you just go up and speak to her, I bet she’ll be yours tonight! And then... heh!”

George hadn’t said much and had already reverted to his lecherous nature. Beside him, Shiera’s face changed and the next moment, George let out a sharp scream and begged for forgiveness.

“Haha...”

Seeing this, the acolytes from the Wetland Gardens Academy and Leylin were unable to keep a straight face.

Leylin obviously did not hit on anyone in the end, since George had been joking around to liven up the atmosphere.

The result of this drinking session was surprisingly good. At least, after seeing Leylin produce the insignia of Four Seasons Garden, the relations between Leylin, Alexander and the rest of the acolytes all turned for the better.

Bessita appeared to be very happy to welcome Leylin as their new comrade.

The group rested in the small town for a while, before setting off early in the morning and resuming their journey.

The missions assigned by Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Wetland Gardens Academy all had time limits. George and the others had to report to a

designated area within a stipulated time. If not, they would be labeled as criminals and be on their school's wanted list.

They were mere acolytes! If something like this were to happen, they would be finished for the rest of their lives!

Hence, after receiving the mission, they could only obey the arrangements of the organisation no matter how unwilling they were. There was little choice but to enter the Eternal River Plains' secret plane and accept the unknown fate their future held.

Chapter 198: Jamu

The azure blue sky was covered with white clouds, and there seemed to be no end to this wonderful sight.

Beside a ramrod straight street, a winding, clear stream flowed. On the bed of the creek white pebbles and green fish could clearly be seen.

“As long as we go through this Pome Alley, we’ll reach our destination. It’s an entrance to Eternal River Plain’s secret plane located in Marat Canyon. It only takes a day for us to get there, so we can afford to stroll there! Should we find a place and take a rest?”

George looked at the yellow map drawn on parchment paper and produced a compass. He checked his bearings and spoke to Leylin and the others as he looked back.

“Stop? If it’s that near, then wouldn’t it be better if we went and rested there?”

Sheira glared at George.

This situation had already occurred multiple times within this small group. Every time George had a suggestion, Sheira would vehemently shoot him down, and George would usually automatically give up.

It was such a regular occurrence that even Leylin had become used to it.

Perhaps only this kind of woman would be able to control a playboy like George. Leylin noted that George seemed to be enjoying this situation.

Bessita, on the other hand, had been silent the whole time. She did not give her opinion on anything, and were it not for her being the only level 3 acolyte from Wetland Gardens Academy, she might have been forgotten.

“Alright, alright! Let’s be on our way!” Just as expected, upon hearing Sheira’s voice, George quickly raised both his arms and surrendered. Leylin rolled his eyes at him.

Leylin was a little surprised as he looked at the other route in front of them.

With Leylin's current spiritual force, he could clearly tell that not far away, there was a team of acolytes. They were rushing in their direction and seemed to be heading for Marat Canyon as well.

Based on their speed, it seemed that they were going to encounter Leylin's group soon.

Their might was obviously greater than George's group by one or two levels. Leylin could also feel the undulations created by magical artifacts on the leader's body.

Although it was just a low-grade magic artifact, that alone was already very valuable.

Only truly talented acolytes and the successors of large families were in possession of magic artifacts. The battle might of these acolytes was definitely at the peak of level 3, and besides official Magi, they feared no one!

About three minutes later, Sheira's face changed.

"Be careful! Bourbon discovered that there are acolytes nearing us!"

As the one in charge of long-range attacks, Sheira was naturally also the sentinel. Bourbon was an unusual owl that she was raising that could share its field of vision with her within a specific range.

"Acolytes?"

George's expression darkened and he cursed. "Fuck! I hope our luck isn't that bad. Alert!"

Meeting foreign acolytes in the open wasn't something that could be ignored. There was a possibility that conflict between them could occur, and in such a scenario, the weaker party would usually be the victim.

George issued an order; Bessita and the others quickly understood that they were in danger.

They gathered together and a few of them set up a simple defensive spell formation. The entire process was executed smoothly, indicating that they must have prepared and practiced beforehand.

While the acolytes were waiting nervously, a cloud of dust was nearing them.

Tak! Tak!

Along with the sound of footsteps from several horses, a team of five people appeared in Leylin's line of sight.

The leader was dressed in a white robe and had a broadsword on his back. Leylin found that the undulations emitted from a magic artifact originated from that large sword.

"It's such a large magic artifact. Interesting!" Leylin stroked his chin.

Usually, magic artifacts were much smaller due to the precious resources they had to be constructed from. Though this huge magic artifact was only of a low grade, this was Leylin's first time seeing one that was so large.

After recognizing such an eye-catching signature item, Bessita, and the two other acolytes from Wetland Gardens Academy first had an expression of disbelief, and then shouted, "It's Jamu! It's Senior Jamu!"

"Oh! Are you acolytes from Wetland Gardens Academy?" Leylin glanced at the three acolytes who left the defensive spell formation and went to receive the newcomers.

A hint of a smile appeared on Bessita's face.

With the added bonus of her natural beauty, her smile caused the acolytes behind Jamu to be stunned for a moment.

Clop! Clop!

The group pulled on their reins, and with a wave from their leader Jamu, the five dismounted; their actions were precise as if they were from the military.

"Are you acolytes from the academy?"

Jamu, the leader, was a tall man with fair skin. He was a head taller than George and had blue hair. There was a red mole between his brows.

“Yes! Senior Jamu, we even met once at Professor Clarentino’s cocktail party...”

Upon seeing such a famous character, Alexander and Lana were rendered speechless and could do naught but hide behind Bessita.

Bessita, on the other hand, was very enthusiastic and chatted with Jamu, occasionally pointing towards Leylin and George.

Ten or so minutes later, Jamu approached George and Leylin.

“George! And this is Sheira...?”

Jamu raised his chin, arrogance evident in his eyes, “I’ve heard about you from Bessita. As thanks for helping them, I permit you to follow behind us to Marat Canyon.”

Jamu looked at them condescendingly, as if pitying them.

“Senior Jamu is one of the ten strongest in the academy in terms of battle power! With him around, we don’t have to worry about our safety!”

Bessita was boasting about his strength at the side, her entire body almost pressed against Jamu’s.

“You...” George still had his own pride after all and immediately wanted to say something, but Sheira stopped him.

“He’s right! Pome Alley has always been an area where bandits are frequently seen. Without Bessita and the others, I doubt we’ll be able to get through safely.” Sheira murmured into George’s ear.

After hearing his love’s words George became gloomy, and he eventually forced a smile, “In that case, thank you Senior Jamu!”

“Hmph!” Jamu nodded reservedly and looked at Leylin.

“As for you, the dark Magus from before! During these sensitive times, our group does not welcome you!”

“You can’t do this! Leylin is an acolyte from Four Seasons Garden, and has long since broken all ties with Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” George hurriedly brought up.

“What credit do magicians who grew up in that sort of environment have to speak of? Who knows, perhaps his status as an acolyte of Four Seasons Garden was gained with unethical methods!”

Jamu laughed icily.

“I do think there’s a large chance of him being a spy deployed by dark Magi, and we need to check his belongings!”

Behind Jamu, a freckled acolyte yelled.

“Bessita! What do you think?”

Leylin watched her with a hint of interest.

“I’m sorry Leylin! Though we once walked the same path, the safety of our companions is the priority now.”

Bessita seemed to be in a tough spot struggling with this decision.

“Do you have anything else to say?” Jamu crossed his arms.

While Alexander and Lana didn’t think Leylin was an enemy, but in front of Jamu, they didn’t dare say anything.

As for George, Shiera had pulled him back.

“For some useless revenge?” Leylin stared at Bessita. “How stupid!”

“But it seems like I don’t have to take care of you myself!”

“What do you mean?” Jamu was confused by Leylin’s words and Leylin’s attitude irked him. A bright radiance caused by magic appeared instantly from Jamu’s body, which made the atmosphere become serious.

Whoosh!

An acidic flying dart shot out, striking the arrogant freckled acolyte.

Sssii!

Along with the terrifying sound of corrosion, the acolyte melted into a pile of flesh, and red and green liquid under the gaze of the surrounding acolytes.

In the middle of the pile of flesh, several broken pieces of bones stayed

upright.

“An enemy attack!” Bessita’s flustered voice sounded, and because it was so piercing, she sounded a little hoarse.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

In no time, Jamu, Leylin and everyone else were surrounded by around twenty bandits.

“Akai!” “You hateful brute!” “I’ll kill you!”

The three acolytes behind Jamu were outraged at seeing their companion die in such a tragic manner. Several waves of magic rushed towards the robed bandits.

“Hmph!”

The leader of the bandits stepped forward, a ring of black light dispersing from around his body.

Pak! Pak!

The acolytes used their spells against that black light, but like soap bubbles colliding against each other and bursting, their spells were all deflected..

“A magic artifact! A defensive magic artifact!”

Jamu narrowed his eyes at the realisation and stood in front of the three acolytes, protecting them.

“They’re not people you can deal with. Retreat first!”

“I am Jamu! What is your name?”

Clang! Metal scraped against metal as Jamu unbuckled the broadsword from his back. He held it with one arm and faced the robed bandit leader and asked for the enemy’s name.

“Hehe...”

Amidst strange giggles, the leader made his move.

Boom! A layer of the ground separated; soil and rocks were suspended in

the air, converging into the shape of a beast. Its jaws were wide open as it snapped at Jamu.

“Hah!”

A silver-white light flashed in the air as Jamu waved his hand.

A single line sliced towards the beast!

The surrounding greenery was destroyed in an instant; a gap separated the trees into two groups.

Chapter 199: Plant Type-Transfiguration

Weng!

The silver white light was extremely thin, and as it sliced at the beast formed from rock, not a single undulation was produced.

Bang!

The stone beast suddenly halted in mid-air, and with a gentle booming sound, the beast cracked, and was reduced to fragments of rock that rained down.

“The Wetland Gardens Academy’s ‘Broadsword Jamu’ is indeed formidable!”

The leader chuckled, seeming to be very familiar with Jamu.

“Who in the world are you?” Jamu frowned. Not only did these bandits have acolytes in the group, the bandits’ leader even had a magic artifact and knew so much about him. No matter how he thought about it, this leader wasn’t just any random bandit looking for a target!

He could smell something fishy and quite possibly dangerous going on here.

“Do you really think I’d tell you?” The bandit leader answered nonchalantly. “There should at least be a transmitting spell formation on you. The moment I expose anything about myself, the Wetland Gardens Academy will automatically have a record of it. Am I wrong?”

While he spoke, rays of black light emerged in the area surrounding him.

The black lights converged, forming warriors in armour. Their skulls were jet black.

“These are my darkness fighting troop that I especially prepared for you! Each dark warrior’s might is at at least 15 degrees! How about it? Enjoy the experience!”

Amidst the manic laughter, the black armoured warriors roared and

rushed forward, trapping Jamu between them.

Seeing the more than ten dark warriors, Jamu's face fell.

Although this large magic artifact of his was very powerful, its energy consumption rate was equally enormous. It was obvious that this bandit was intending to use cannon fodder and force him to use up his magic and spiritual force.

No matter how amazing an acolyte was, once his or her magic and spiritual force were depleted, he or she would only be trampled on.

"Kill off the other acolytes. All items will belong to you!"

The black robed bandit leader hid behind the rows of dark warriors to stay protected and pointed towards Leylin and the other acolytes.

"Kill!" His underlings, the dark Magus acolytes, roared and rushed towards Leylin.

"Damn it! Try to prolong the fight. Once Senior Jamu takes care of the opposing leader, we'll be safe!"

Bessita clenched her teeth and spoke to the acolytes behind her.

At the same time, she glanced towards Leylin's direction.

"Let's form an alliance! Otherwise, none of us will be able to survive!"

"Hmph!" George knew her suggestion was reasonable, but couldn't help but snort in reply.

He wasn't stupid and naturally knew what had just happened.

He really didn't want to form an alliance with such a woman.

However, his rational side told him that this was the best way to get out of this difficult situation.

"George!" Sheira cast a worried glance at George. She had already readied her bow, which had been on her shoulder, and positioned it at her front.

"Leylin! Let's do it!" George saw that the bandits were quickly closing in and unwillingly bellowed.

The muscles on his body bulged bit by bit, and in an instant, he turned into a giant that was more than three metres tall. At the same time, his skin had turned green, matching with the veins on his muscles that looked like connected earthworms. Leylin suddenly thought of the Incredible Hulk, a figure he was familiar with in his previous life.

“Roar!” After transforming into the green giant, George pounded on his naked chest and bellowed out a thundering roar.

He stomped on the ground, and with huge momentum, shot towards the incoming bandits like a lead bullet which had left a gun barrel.

Pa!

With a wave of George’s giant palm, a bandit was sent flying. Blood splattered all over, and the sound of bones breaking could be heard. Even the piercing screeches of horror were overshadowed by this grisly sight and sound.

“What amazing power! Besides some flaws in speed and rationality, every other aspect is perfect!” Leylin watched George, who was freely utilizing his might, from a corner, his blue eyes flashing.

He never expected George to have majored in transfiguration!

However, this decision was easy to relate to, as Magi usually held high positions, and prioritised lengthening their lifespan.

For the average magician, advancing to the level of a Magus to gain a longer lifespan was much too difficult. Hence, by transplanting the organs of various powerful creatures and modifying one’s body, one would be able to strengthen and increase his or her vitality. This had gradually become the norm amongst magicians.

The study of transmutation had thus become very popular amongst many.

Strictly speaking, the changes that a Warlock would undergo could actually be considered an extension of transmutation as well. At the very least, they were rather similar at the beginning stages.

Hence, when Leylin was at the Four Seasons Garden, he had concentrated on collecting all knowledge related to transmutation. With the aid of the A.I. Chip, his knowledge in transmutation was at a level close to official Magi who had spent most of their life researching on this subject.

With just a look, Leylin could identify the creature George had used.

“Out of all the plants that can be transfigured, a Green Metal Tree? This is a popular choice amongst acolytes since it’s easy to work with and augments offensive prowess. Its defensive properties are not bad, and there are many ways in which one can advance. There aren’t too many restrictions!”

At this moment, the green giant that George had transformed into was in the center of the battlefield, grabbing an unlucky individual’s thigh. The poor man was used as a huge club and was swung around by George at any bandits who neared him.

This “human weapon” brushed against the ground from time to time, producing traces of bright red bloodstains. From the looks of it, the acolyte that George had caught was in a rather terrible situation.

Chi! Chi!

Meanwhile, there were several green arrows being shot by Sheira’s bow from behind George. She covered for George and helped him fend off attackers.

“Hm. They have good rapport!” Leylin nodded, looking incredibly relaxed.

Around him, there was a layer of invisible waves that could manipulate one’s mind. All acolytes who entered the domain he had set up would unconsciously choose to ignore him, and would instead fight amongst themselves.

Such a strange situation had obviously attracted the attentions of many.

“Look at him! The enemies aren’t going after him at all. He has got to be a spy!”

The three acolytes behind Jamu saw this odd situation, and immediately yelled.

“Uhh...” Leylin touched his nose.

His laid back appearance was rather eye catching in this desperate battle.

Before George and the others could react, the winner on the side of the battlefield where Jamu was had been decided.

“You’re forcing me to do this! Burst form! Activate!”

After waving his sword in quick succession, he scattered the bunch of dark acolytes that approached and steeled his mind while looking at the numerous dark warriors around him.

He pressed a few points on his body, as if stimulating some special state.

In a split second, his blue hair exploded strand by strand, and immense energy undulations were emitted from his body.

Weng Weng!

The white broadsword in Jamu’s hand also produced a rumble.

“Whirlwind, Second form!” Jamu shouted.

From within the sword, a violent, green hurricane emerged!

The tremendous hurricane shrouded Jamu’s body, and he rapidly spun along with it.

The green hurricane was like a spinning top, with the surface being the edge of the broadsword. Like the wind, it swept through the battlefield, along with the hordes of dark warriors.

Peng! Peng! Peng! Peng!

The dark warriors that had been swept up in the green hurricane looked like they were caught by a large, shapeless hand and forced into a vortex. They scattered into countless black pieces that flew about in the air.

The violent hurricane instantly destroyed the dark warriors’ layers of defense and quickly approached the bandit leader.

“Night Devil!”

The bandit leader produced a black ring and yelled, the gaze in his eyes frantic for the very first time.

Peng!

Numerous black rays emanated from the ring and formed a large black shield in front of him. There were fine black barbed tips on the surface, with the sheen of a metallic luster.

When the attacks from the hurricane struck against the black shield, a gigantic energy shock wave engulfed the area.

Boom!

Along with the loud noise, the explosion left a deep crater on the surface of the ground. An entire layer of the ground had been turned up, exposing plant roots and countless stones.

Even the side of the battlefield that Leylin was on was affected!

Whether it was the bandits or the acolytes near Leylin, everyone was in a pitiful state.

After the blast wave had died down, dust flew all over like a curtain and covered the battlefield.

The two opposing forces stopped all actions, and focused their gazes on the centre of the area.

After a moment, the dust dispersed and revealed the area.

In the middle of the crater, innumerable crevices had split open like cobwebs under the two combatants' feet. Jamu's two hands were fixed firmly on his silver white broadsword, pressed against the surface of the black shield.

“Hah! Hah!”

Jamu was panting roughly, beads of sweat rolling down his forehead.

It was obvious that the violent explosion had taken a toll on his physical strength.

“Hehe... I acknowledge your strength, but so what? You’ve probably used up all your spiritual force at this point, no? I wonder how much energy is still left in the reserves of that large sword of yours.”

The bandit leader snickered.

With the sounds of his laughter, the black light from the shield began to suppress the sword.

The strain could be seen on Jamu’s expression as the broadsword was gradually forced backwards by the shield.

“Jamu—Senior Jamu!” The acolytes who had come with Jamu murmured worriedly, their voices breaking.

“Jamu won’t actually lose right? He’s the number 1 genius acolyte of the academy...”

Bessita’s little face had turned pale as she scanned the surroundings.

“Hehe... I’ll bring your head back, hang it in my bedroom, and treat it as my most treasured collection item!” The bandit leader snickered complacently.

“Unfortunately, you’re the one who’s going to lose! Furthermore, I’ll be the one stepping over your body as if I’m stepping over stones!”

Chapter 200: A Dark Magus!

Jamu's face turned red and he suddenly shouted, "Third Form!"

An instant later, blood oozed from his skin.

The great amount of blood soaked into his clothes, staining it red. His whole body currently looked as if he had just been fished out of an ocean of blood.

With his blood bubbling up, a shocking amount of terrifying spiritual force was also sent out from Jamu's body suddenly.

The large sword in Jamu's hand immediately turned a bright red color, and its radiance momentarily grew by several metres.

Peng!

The bandit leader's black metal shield was broken into pieces by the blood-red sword.

Following which, Jamu swung the sword in his hands and aimed a fierce chop at the black-garbed bandit leader.

Sssii!

The black-garbed bandit leader was sent flying by the attack, and the black ring-shaped magic artifact on his body shattered into pieces in mid-air. It then turned into fine dust, which drifted off with the wind.

"Good work, Jamu!"

"You truly are worthy of being called Senior Jamu!"

Witnessing this scene, all the other people from the Wetland Gardens Academy immediately began to cheer.

Jamu, on the other hand, immediately turned around with his sword aimed at the remaining bandits.

Apparently, he had planned to dispose of all these enemies in one breath; after all, the third form also placed a heavy burden on him and had other troublesome after effects.

“Jamu is the best...” Bessita said, seeing Jamu’s unusual power. She blushed, stars flashing in her eyes.

“Pieces of trash! You have forced my hand!”

Suddenly, a strange hoarse voice could be heard.

After hearing this voice, the bandits, who had been arrogant up until a moment ago, kneeled down as if they had seen God, their bodies slightly trembling.

Following this voice, a huge black palm appeared in midair and slammed at Jamu, just like someone swatting a housefly.

Thump!

The black palm merely swatted, yet the blood-red sword in Jamu’s hand was sent flying. Soon after, a fist struck out. Jamu’s chest caved in, and he spurted out a large amount of blood as he was thrown back.

“An offi...official Magus?”

Lying on the ground, Jamu’s expression was one of incredulity, and then he lost consciousness.

“Official Magus?” Bessita’s expression paled, and she felt limp and collapsed as if the bones in her body had been removed. “We are finished!”

Although they had heard that there was a dark official Magus hiding in one of the many bandit groups, they had not anticipated that they would encounter this particular one.

This was a high and mighty Magus! Would he even put their small group of acolytes in his eyes?

Unfortunately, the reality was cruel, and what one least expected would always happen.

The dark Magus was clothed in a black robe with golden accents, and with a black fog obscured his appearance, he instantly appeared in front of them.

Awooooo! George issued a loud howl and faced the dark Magus head-on.

Though powerful, George's gigantic green form caused side effects such as losing rationality for an indeterminate period randomly. This effect was more obvious when the body was transformed.

He instinctively rushed towards the middle of the battlefield, heading for the dark Magus who was immensely pressuring him.

"George! Don't!" shouted Shiera, with a look of despair on her face.

"A lowly acolyte dares to attack this mighty Lord Magus?"

The dark Magus sneered. A dangerous green phosphorescent claw from an unknown beast latched onto George.

Puchi!

Suddenly, raging black fireballs struck this strange claw.

The raging black fireballs seemed to fill the sky and dyed it a dark black.

This was merely a green claw, and though it tried to persist within the black flame, it was burned to ashes within a few seconds.

"Who was that?" The dark-gowned Magus asked in rage.

"Ai..." was the reply he heard, a soft and gentle sigh.

Immediately, Leylin's body flashed past in a dark ray of light, appearing in front of George, who had transformed into the green giant.

At this moment, however, there was some drool flowing from one side of George's mouth—he had completely lost his rationality. Seeing Leylin, he attempted to grab him.

The green giant's arms had flexible and sturdy muscles, causing violent gales when they moved.

While facing this attack, Leylin calmly extended his right hand.

Bang!

The huge fist was directly blocked by the pale, slender palm of Leylin.

At this moment, Leylin's body was like an infant's when compared to

that of the green giant, but even so, Leylin still resisted the green giant's full strength attack.

This scene appeared to be all too hilarious, but not a single person present was laughing.

“An offi...official Magus?”

Alexander's jaws snapped wide open—thus resembling a toad—and he said, “Leylin is an official Magus! My heavens...”

“How foolish were we?” Lana and the other acolytes also were gaping foolishly.

As for Bessita, this woman had basically become paralyzed on the ground—in short, she was unable to say anything!

The only one who looked happy at all was Shiera.

Currently, George was on the ground, bound by many black chains which sprouted from the ground underneath Leylin.

Following which, the transformation of George's body seemed to be undergoing a change; it began shrinking while emitting steam. He gradually shrunk, and later regained the build of an ordinary man.

“George!” Shiera hurriedly approached and helped remove the black chains from George's body.

George was in a coma, and his body was involuntarily twitching. He looked terrible; his face still had large patches of green, and his lips had lost their colour.

“Ley....My Lord, I request that you save him.” Shiera clasped George's face, a harried look on her own face.

“No need to worry!”

“This is only a biological rejection from the cells of a Green Metal Tree. It is very easy to solve.”

A milky-white beam emitted from Leylin's palm, which was then irradiated onto George's face.

When the milky white beam turned into thin white rays that bored through George's nose and ears, the green patches on his face vanished at a very quick speed. A few seconds later, George assumed a serene expression, like an ordinary sleeping person.

After handling George, Leylin slowly stood up and saw the Magus in the black fog waiting at the side.

"I truly didn't expect that I would run into an official Magus here."

The voice of the dark Magus, whose face was wrapped in fog, sounded out. This voice belonged to neither a male nor a female; it was clearly a fake voice.

"I, too, didn't expect that I would meet a dark Magus while taking a stroll after concealing my identity," Leylin stated flatly.

Even though he had participated in a lot of raids and other such missions with the Thousands Meddling Hands, that was only for dealing with goals that had a degree of difficulty similar to raiding the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

As an official Magus, resorting to being a bandit and robbing acolytes was something he couldn't do.

It seemed that the dark Magus who was facing Leylin was poverty-stricken. His strength, spiritual force, and the energy waves fluctuating from his body seemed comparatively weak. He must have recently broken through. His spiritual force and elemental essence conversion were also very low.

"In that case, I will give you some face and let them all off!" The dark Magus quickly spoke up.

Due to the lack of benefits, no Magus in their right mind would battle an enemy at the same level as themselves.

"Thanks!"

Leylin replied in a faint voice.

While he was considering that the enemy might go on ahead, the other

dark Magus said, “Additionally, I have some exclusive information regarding the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. Do you want to hear it?”

“News about the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane?” Doubtful, Leylin glanced at this dark Magus, sizing him up.

Based on the enemy’s strength, it would not be possible for him to have gathered any information. When he came across such lucky opportunities, Leylin generally maintained extreme caution.

“Not bad!”

However, Leylin still agreed, wanting to see what this dark Magus was trying to pull.

“You should leave first!”

The Magus in a black robe spoke to the horde of bandits, who were lucky to have survived.

“Yes, my lord!”

All of the bandits present immediately moved around wildly in their fright, and before one could blink, they had already disappeared.

Heavens! They had believed they would be raiding only a group of acolytes, and they did not think that they would unexpectedly find an official Magus within this group.

Moreover, seeing the attitude of their true leader, the other party’s strength must have truly been very terrifying.

If a person like Leylin were to be in a bad mood, killing the bandits would be as difficult as dealing with an ant.

Thus, these bandits helped the fallen acolytes get up, and disappeared like the wind, leaving a mess behind.

“You all wait here for me!”

Leylin saw that after he had spoken, all the acolytes in his group bowed their bodies, including Bessita.

These acolytes had picked up this habit within their academies. Towards

a Magus, they were required to show extreme respect and caution. Otherwise, they would be severely punished.

Seeing this scene, Leylin inwardly smiled and immediately left with the black-fog-masked dark Magus.

“Can we speak here?”

After the dark Magus had reached a faraway place, Leylin shouted, making the dark Magus halt.

“Finally, what is the news that you have? If what you say is really valuable, then no matter how many magic crystals or whatever else you want in exchange, I will not be stingy with it...”

“It is not very secure here. I need to bring you to a place where no one will be able to eavesdrop.” The dark Magus began explaining.

“Is that so?” Leylin was suspicious, but he still went along with this dark Magus.

“We’re here now.”

The dark Magus led Leylin to a strange pile of scattered stones

“I set up an isolation spell formation here that will ensure that all we say will stay private, and nobody will be able to listen in on our conversation.”

The Magus, whose face was concealed by dark fog, and could not have his or her gender identified, went straight for the middle of the pile of stones. Leylin, on the other hand, hesitated and stopped in his tracks.

“What’s wrong? Do you not believe me?”

The Magus surrounded by black fog questioned.

Chapter 201: Detonation

“As much as I would like to enter, I would like to first know why I am seeing offensive and restraint runes inside the spell formation. Not even one isolation energy rune is in the formation...”

Blue light flashed in Leylin’s eyes as he stopped in front of the formation and looked at the Magus within the black fog.

“To think that you would still find out after all!”

The Magus in the dark fog smiled wryly, and his voice turned much gentler. It belonged to that of a young woman.

Leylin actually recognised this voice.

“It can’t be helped since I’ve never really swindled anyone before!”

The woman forced a laugh and dispelled the black fog that concealed her.

The fog dispersed, revealing an ordinary female face. Though she wasn’t that pretty, her eyes were extremely gentle and there seemed to be ripples within them, making her unforgettable.

On her chest was a large necklace of gems and pearls strung together, each sparkling with every colour under the sun.

“Jenna?! It’s you?” Leylin immediately recognised the identity of this Magus.

This young lady was the first Magus that he had befriended in the Nightless City, and Leylin’s impression of her at the time was not bad.

However, it seemed like this pure looking young lady was, in fact, hiding something from Leylin.

“We finally meet again, Leylin!”

This young lady, who seemed to come from a large family, smiled brilliantly.

“Let’s not talk about the things of the past. Shouldn’t you first explain

the traps laid inside this spell formation?”

Leylin pointed at the spell formation with a solemn expression.

He had been travelling in secret, and even though he had been on alert, he had been followed by this young woman in disguise and did not realise it at all. He had no clue as to what methods she had used to conceal her tracks, and what intentions she harboured.

“Regarding this problem...”

Jenna lowered her head, as if ashamed. “This is...”

In a split second, a multi-coloured burst of light erupted from the necklace around Jenna’s neck, rapidly approaching Leylin.

Leylin, who had always been alert, had previously set up several spell formations on his legs to assist him in moving more quickly. They were quickly activated, and his body turned into several black shadows, that instantly disappeared.

Rumble!

Rainbow rays of light enveloped the ground and formed a rune on the floor. Under the light, all plants, and even the soil began to wither.

“Gotcha!” At this scene, a smile appeared on Jenna’s face.

Leylin, who was in the middle of moving, was shocked.

At that moment, a dim spell formation suddenly appeared, and lit up under his feet.

Countless white pillars of light rose, forming a cage that locked Leylin up within.

“Did she plan ahead and set this up beforehand? No! It’s something more powerful than that!”

Inside the cage, Leylin shook his robes, and several fireballs crashed into the cage, the black flames burning fiercely.

However, these pillars of white light were extremely sturdy; the Latent Fireball could only cause the light pillars to tremble. It seemed like much

more power was needed to break this spell formation.

A person who was able to lay such a spell formation was not a simple character.

Leylin carefully looked at this female Magus, suddenly feeling that he had underestimated her.

No matter if it was that obvious spell formation trap that was laid as a bait to attract Leylin's attention, or grasping the right opportunity and making an instantaneous decision to strike, it was not something any ordinary light Magus could do.

This particular prediction of where Leylin was going to land made Leylin even more afraid.

If it was the power of divination, low leveled magicians were helpless against it.

"Why?" Leylin, who was trapped in the white pillared cage, asked.

He'd only seen Jenna a few times before he entered the city. After that, they had limited contact, and no matter how he questioned himself, there wasn't a reason for them to be in a battle to the death.

"I'm sorry, but you are the catalyst that will bring war and draw fresh blood in the south coast. To protect the peace here, I have no choice but to sacrifice you..."

Beads of tears dripped down her face. Leylin could not determine whether or not they were crocodile tears.

"So just because of some illusory prophecy, you want to get rid of me after thinking that I will bring danger to the south coast?"

Leylin's face darkened. No matter who it was, after being confronted with such a ridiculous situation, they would also be driven mad.

Leylin had thought of many situations earlier. Was it revenge? For the benefits of an opposing faction? However, he had never even thought of such a possibility being her motive.

However, since it had already been confirmed, what Jenna had cast

before was a type of prophecy spell.

“You don’t need to struggle anymore. This is a cage that I prepared especially for you using fragments of the future that I obtained. Not only is it made entirely out of light elemental particles, I’ve also included innumerable high-level spells that are fire resistant. Even with your most powerful attack, it’s impossible to break out of there!”

Jenna suddenly closed her eyes and then quickly opened them; her pupils were white.

“For the sake of world peace, please leave this place!”

Jenna said indifferently, her originally common face unexpectedly radiating a holy feel.

As the words left her mouth, the white pillared cage trapping Leylin began to close in. Countless white threads of light separated from the pillars and enveloped the interior of the cage.

These white threads were like thin silk produced by silkworms, wrapping themselves around Leylin’s body as if they wanted to wrap him in a large cocoon.

“Hehe...”

Leylin paid no heed to the threads surrounding his body and suddenly began to chuckle.

“What are you laughing about? If you have any last wishes, you can tell me. By my reputation as the Guardian family, I promise I’ll help you achieve it!”

Both of Jenna’s arms were placed on her chest, and she made a strange gesture with her hands.

“No need for it! Looking at your hypocrisy makes me want to puke!” A nauseating feeling surged up from within Leylin’s chest.

Back in his previous world, he was already strongly disgusted by things such as world guardians, protectors of the peace, and the like. In the name of righteousness, these groups would sacrifice a person for the sake of the

greater good.

After having seen such a scene in the world he now lived in, an intense killing intent, something that he had never felt before, stirred within him.

“There will be a day where the world will understand our methods, and world peace will reign forever!” Jenna did not mind Leylin’s words and instead replied with a maxim.

She then pointed at the cage.

“Purify!”

Tsssss! The white rays of light enveloped the entire cage, and Leylin suddenly felt as if he had been placed in a furnace. He had a strange feeling that he was going to be melted down.

He specialized in dark elemental particles, which were the direct opposite of light elemental particles. He had no idea where Jenna had gotten this spell formation, but its might was incredibly formidable and even Leylin wasn’t able to endure the pain it caused.

“I still have something to say!”

Despite the huge pressure on his body, streams of black smoke coiled around Leylin’s body, which was resisting the corrosion of the white light. This scene made Leylin look quite pitiful.

“Sinner! Speak your last words!”

Jenna advanced slowly.

“I...”

Leylin’s lips moved slightly.

“What? Have the light elemental particles already corroded him to this extent?” Jenna got even closer and pressed her ear to the side of the white pillared cage.

“You slut! You think that this world is operated by your family?”

In a moment, Leylin’s body was covered by fine black scales, and his eyes had an amber vertical pupil resting within.

Leylin bellowed, “Hoop of Imprisonment! Detonate!”

Boom!

In an instant, a brilliant silver light exploded from Leylin’s arm.

This metal hoop, which had been resting on Leylin’s left arm, immediately exploded upon Leylin’s command.

The giant shockwave immediately caused part of the cage to burst open. The explosion did not stop there and even extended to where Jenna was.

“Argh!”

Jenna grabbed her face as she was sent flying backwards.

The white thread, which had been restraining Leylin before, immediately exploded. Even the white pillared cage was clearly damaged.

“Eyes of Petrification!”

Leylin’s eyes were focused on the area where the cage was caved in.

Tssss! An ashen layer of stone began to spread on the white pillars.

“Latent Fireball!”

Leylin pressed both of his hands together, and large amounts of black flames emerged from the shadows. He pulled his palms apart.

The black flames instantly separated and were evenly distributed on his palms.

“Go!”

Leylin clenched both hands and ferociously struck at the area of the cage that had been petrified.

Rumble!

The white light expanded, and in a moment, reached the height of several dozen metres, as if wanting to break through the clouds. After which, it withdrew and was engulfed by the black flames.

As for the heart of the flames, a figure with tattered clothes and fine black scales walked out slowly from it.

[Host's body has suffered from Light elemental corrosion. It has a restraining effect with the Host's energy particles, creating a neutralising effect. The damage has increased; currently, 34% of the Host's skin is burnt. The Host's left arm has suffered from the explosion of a magic artifact, causing dysfunctionality. Immediate treatment recommended!]

The A.I. Chip's prompt appeared in front of Leylin.

His current condition wasn't all that good. Not only were there multiple burns all over his body, his left arm was slanted strangely in front of his chest, revealing a huge wound. One could even see slightly charred bone.

Leylin had brazenly blown up a middle-grade magic artifact, and since he was in a cage, he was the one who had suffered the most. Hence, even with the Fallen Star Pendant and Kemoyin's Scales' defensive properties increased to the maximum, he still suffered major injuries.

Chapter 202: Necklace

“No! That’s impossible!”

Jenna, who had collapsed at the side, was holding on to half her face. Seeing Leylin escape, she shouted in disbelief.

“How did you get out? In the future I saw, there wasn’t anything like this!”

Jenna yelled, her facial muscles twitching slightly.

“I know. It has to be! You must be the traitor going against fate!” Jenna’s register suddenly became extremely high.

“Who I am is not important! The important thing is that you will have to die horribly today!”

The killing intent on Leylin grew stronger. Ever since he stepped on the path of a Magus, this was the first time he suffered such a big defeat!

The injuries he sustained on his body and his left arm, which was on the verge of breaking, were not easy to treat. His upcoming mission in the secret plane had now become more precarious.

At the thought, the fury in Leylin’s heart became more vigorous.

“Bitch! I want you to know the price of offending me!”

Leylin roared, and used his right arm, the only one that was still in good condition, to viciously claw at Jenna!

Streams of rope-like black smoke emerged from the ground, followed the ground, and climbed towards Jenna.

“Guard!” Jenny grasped the large, thick necklace around her neck.

A red gem brightened and a huge lava fireball generated in front of Jenna, rushing towards the black smoke.

Boom!

A huge energy wave was emitted, the scalding molten lava scattering in all directions, creating large black holes in the ground.

“Even if you have all the spells prepared in that necklace today, it won’t be able to save you!”

Leylin’s eyes glinted coldly.

Several black fireballs were shot out instantaneously, and merged into the air as one collective fireball! The immense energy waves momentarily exploded with might which reached 51 degrees that immediately burnt a huge pit in the ground.

“Latent Fireball!”

Leylin pointed at Jenna.

The giant fireball seemed to set like the sun, projecting over Jenna’s position.

Before the black flames descended, more sweat trickled on Jenna’s face, which was ever paler than before.

“Frost!” Jenna gritted her teeth, spitting out a character of the Byron language from her mouth.

At that moment, the necklace around her neck continuously emanated ice magic energy waves as it produced a series of white rays while the pearls emitted light one after the other.

The white rays formed a dozen huge ice shields in front of Jenna.

The large, translucent white shields could clearly reflect the surroundings. The black fireballs from before flew down from the air, and in a flash, struck these ice shields.

Water vapour was being emitted.

A distance away from the fireballs, the water vapour quickly condensed into water droplets and ice chunks that fell to the ground.

After everything had settled down, the frost shields that were in front of Jenna and the Latent Fireball had already disappeared without a trace.

In the mist, a black figure appeared within.

Leylin, whose body was lined with the fine Scales of Kemoyin,

immediately charged to where Jenna was.

Sssii!

The layer of icy defense coming from Jenna's necklace was immediately crushed by Leylin's right hand. At the same time, he knocked Jenna away with his body.

Pa! Leylin's shoulders crashed with a huge impact on Jenna.

Chi Chi! A layer of milky white light appeared on Jenna's robes, enveloping her whole body.

This was Jenna's innate defense spell. It had finally erupted at the most crucial moment.

Pa Pa!

Jenna flew backwards like the head of a train that had left its tracks, bashing into many trees along the way.

"This woman..."

Leylin focused his attention on Jenna. After that exchange, he could tell that she was merely a newly advanced Magus. In terms of elemental essence conversion, she was far from his match. If not for having a powerful magic artifact in possession, as well as that incredible gift for divination, she would long since have died at Leylin's hands.

As long as she was given time to set up formations, she could quickly come up with methods that were specifically catered to her enemy's weakness, like that incredible white pillared cage that had trapped him. Even a rank 1 Magus at his peak would be in trouble!

"Enemies with prophesying spells are the most troublesome. I was fortunate enough that her prophecy did not go as planned, but it's unlikely that I'll get so lucky again!"

Leylin's eyes turned cold as ice.

The thought that there was an opponent that was operating behind the scenes with prophesying skills left a bad taste in his mouth. Having this happen once was one time too many.

Never had his killing intent reached such an urgent degree.

“Shadow Stealth!”

Leylin tenaciously glared at Jenna, who had crawled up. The scales on his body flickered and gradually became translucent, and he vanished into the air.

He had decided to go all out when dealing with Jenna, and he made it his mission to ensure that this damned woman remained here forever.

Seeing Leylin disappear into the air, Jenna’s expression became even more serious. She currently felt Leylin’s determination to kill her. She was born intelligent, and with her high-grade meditation technique and her strengthened sixth sense, her instincts told her that if she made the slightest mistake then she would be the one that died today!

For the first time, such a terrifying experience had taken control of Jenna’s spirit. Deep down in her heart, her willpower, which could not be shaken, had slowly given in.

For the first time, Jenna felt that it was a very bad decision to come out here alone to assassinate Leylin!

This fear and regret were like a poisonous snake which was continuously gnawing at her already weak mental fortitude.

At this moment, a pink heart shape gem exploded inside Jenna’s necklace.

Jenna seemed perplexed at first, but very soon her will was strengthened.

“It’s a hallucinatory spell, with some psychological coercion!” Jenna’s face turned red. “Despicable!”

Boom!

A black figure appeared in front of Jenna.

With his right hand clenched into a fist, Leylin struck the defensive membrane from Jenna’s innate spell.

Pa!

This innate spell was not in its best condition from its previous consumption, and with Leylin's iron fist, it was shattered into countless white spots, dissipating into the air.

Leylin's right hand was able to grab Jenna's right arm without any obstructions.

Ka-Cha! A bone crunching sound was made, and Jenna's right arm had been torn off by Leylin.

"Arghh!" The muscles on Jenna's face contorted in pain. She clenched her teeth and the silk on her robes seemed to writhe with life, bandaging her wound quickly.

At the same time, a large pushing force was emitted from her body, as if wanting to leave Leylin's attack area.

"Thinking of running?"

Leylin's pupils focused on Jenna. "Eyes of Petrification!"

Instantly, a mysterious light emitted from Leylin's amber eyes as he targeted Jenna.

"Petrification magic?"

Jenna made a sound of bewilderment. Petrification magic was something that had long since been extinct in the Magus world. Now, this was a spell that only creatures with ancient bloodlines had as an ability!

Next, creaking sounds emitted from Jenna's body, as if her muscles had become stiff.

A layer of stone began to spread from Jenna's face.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

In front of Leylin, Jenna turned into an ashen stone sculpture.

Ding!

When the grey-white colour had completely enveloped her, a light vibration came from the bulky necklace.

The whole necklace floated in the air, where the faint voice of an old

person sounded, "Ultimate Guard of Life! Activate!"

Light! Dazzling light shone and enveloped the region in an instant.

After Leylin opened his eyes, the stone statue in front of him had already crumbled. Jenna who was within had disappeared, leaving behind only a pile of petrified skin.

After casting this final spell, that bulky necklace lost all of its powers.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

A layer of petrified stone suddenly emerged on the surface of the necklace. The necklace had turned into stone, fallen to the ground, and shattered into pieces.

"This is a substitution spell!"

Leylin's expression turned even more solemn. "This necklace contained so much power and even concealed a final body-substitution spell! An extremely large organisation must be behind Jenna!"

After realising this situation, the killing intent in Leylin's heart grew even stronger.

"You won't be able to run from me!"

Leylin inhaled deeply, where blue light appeared in his eyes immediately and scanned the surroundings.

"Several dozen seconds later, Leylin's brows furrowed and hurried towards a certain direction.

"I... I have to hurry and leave!!"

Jenna grabbed at the stub of her torn arm and rapidly traversed through the woods.

"The family heirloom necklace was destroyed, yet I wasn't able to get rid of him..."

Jenna was very dejected. The necklace from before was an heirloom, and for it to be destroyed while it was in her possession was a huge blow to her.

“Damned heretic! Traitor of fate! There will come a day that I will punish you!”

Jenna pledged inwardly.

“Found it!” Something that sounded like the devil’s voice rang in her ear, and a vicious hot air brushed against her.

Jenna quickly pounced to the side.

Boom!

A huge explosion sounded at the place she had been at, sections of the ground and plants flying everywhere.

Meanwhile, Jenna suddenly smelt something very sweet and immediately after, her entire body became numb and she collapsed to the ground, unable to move.

“This is the end!”

Leylin walked to Jenna, who had breathed in large amounts of chloroform, and raised his right arm expressionlessly.

“You-You can’t kill me! Do you know who I am?”

Jenna struggled, stuttering out her thoughts.

Without waiting for Leylin to ask, she quickly answered, “I am the successor of the Guardian family. I’m on good terms with the light Magi domain and various large organisations. The moment you kill me...”

“I don’t care who you are!”

With his right hand armed with black flames, he clawed downwards!

Chapter 203: Curse

Boom!

A green hurricane rapidly advanced towards Jenna and formed a green shield that protected her.

Leylin's flaming right hand collided with the shield, producing a tremendous noise.

"Uncle-Uncle Manla!" She produced a wide smile.

Along with the loud noise of the wind, a burly, blonde man appeared in front of Leylin.

"Manla?" Leylin recognised this Magus, who had he had previously met once before.

"After receiving your transmission, I rushed over. Thank goodness I made it in time!" Manla stood in front of Jenna, glaring menacingly at Leylin.

"You actually dared to harm my niece to this extent! My family will definitely not..."

Rumble!

Before Manla could even finish his sentence, Leylin wasted no time and sent out numerous black fireballs towards him.

From Leylin's perspective, since they were already enemies, it was natural for him to eradicate them all. Who would bother with listening to what they had to say?

"Be careful, Uncle Manla! He's very strong and his elemental essence conversion has surpassed 50%!"

While Jenna was yelling out warnings, Leylin was already manipulating latent fireballs to attack Manla's green hurricane.

Under the attack of the fireballs, which had a might of 51 degrees, Manla was basically forced to retreat step by step.

“So powerful!” An expression of shock appeared on Manla’s face.

Shortly after, like a ghost, Leylin suddenly appeared in front of him, a clawed hand encased in crimson flames grabbing towards his face.

Pop!

The sounds of bubbles being burst echoed and the defensive spell on the surface of Manla’s body was easily destroyed in the face of Leylin’s Crimson Palm. It was taken care of so easily, like paper being ripped apart.

Leylin’s palm didn’t stop moving and grabbed ahold of the burly man’s chest.

Slash! A bloody piece of flesh was ripped out by the dragging of the claw, and the surrounding skin was left slightly charred.

“This won’t do! The difference in power is too much. If we stay here, we’ll definitely die!”

Manla immediately pulled Jenna up, turned, and ran!

Rationally speaking, Manla was a semi-converted Magus whose elemental essence conversion was at least 50%. In the Magus community on the south coast, he would be considered the cream of the crop. However, he had the misfortune of meeting an evildoer like Leylin, who was much too powerful even when his spiritual force and elemental essence conversion were being suppressed. In terms of hand to hand combat, Manla couldn’t win either.

“Tiwoose Fererian!”

The moment they started to escape, Manla threw out a silver magic scroll.

Nine green tornados formed, and like a wall, they hindered Leylin from giving chase.

“You’re thinking of running?”

Darkness flashed in Leylin’s eyes, and after muttering a few incantations, he pointed forward with his right hand.

Black fog immediately converged to become a black python, which headed for the two of them.

This snake was like an illusion, passing through the green tornados. When it arrived in front of Manla, its crimson eyes were fixed on Jenna, and it bit towards her.

“What the hell is this?”

Manla produced another tornado.

Hua la! The black snake ducked and passed through without trouble, and then opened its mouth, viciously biting Jenna’s neck!

Two black pinholes instantly emerged on Jenna’s fair neck. They transformed to form a strange, twisted rune.

“Jenna?”

There was a white light surrounding Manla’s hand as he tried to brush the snake away.

However, with a swipe of the python’s tail, it shifted and bit Manla’s arm. The same rune was branded there as well.

After these two attacks, the snake hissed and turned back into the black fog, which entered Manla and Jenna’s bodies.

“This seems to be a curse! It’s going to be troublesome!”

Manla’s face fell. He couldn’t feel anything different from the formation of the curse, but instincts told him that it was going to be inconvenient.

“Jenna, hold on!” Manla yelled crazily, the green hurricanes still spreading. His entire body seemed to turn into a gale, and disappeared into the forest.

Seeing Manla escape in that direction, Leylin did not move.

His body seemed to have shattered like porcelain, with large volumes of blood suddenly gushing out.

“It seems like I can’t endure it any longer, the injuries are too severe.” Leylin was half kneeling on the floor. He suddenly became dizzy, and his

vision began to blur.

If possible, he obviously wanted to give chase and kill the two off. However, with his current physical condition, it was impossible for him to continue battling.

“However, the curse that I put up at the end... Hehe... cough, cough.”

Leylin laughed evilly but started to cough violently, spitting out large globs of black blood.

“Light elemental Magi will always be the archenemies of dark elemental Magi. Just a cage made of elemental particles was enough to reduce me to this state...”

Leylin laughed bitterly and his figure quickly turned into black smoke, disappearing into the forest.

Currently, he was in urgent need of a place to treat his injuries.

Although he'd told George and the acolytes to wait for him, Leylin couldn't even take care of himself, much less the others, so that matter was naturally thrown to the back of his mind.

.....

After ten or so hours, in a temporarily set up tent.

In the twilight, an oil lamp illuminated the area a dull yellow. Hay was spread across the floor, and Leylin sat atop of it. In his right hand was a test tube with a potion within, which he was constantly tilting towards the injuries on his left hand.

This test tube was rather large, and in the translucent liquid, one could see something that looked like a baby's face. It was encased in the liquid, and continuously let off little bubbles.

Tssssss!

After the potion was dripped into the wounds, large amounts of white gas were emitted, along with the sounds of corrosion.

“Ugh!” An intense pain struck Leylin's nerves; he seemed to have been

struck by lightning, his muscles involuntarily twitching.

Leylin bit down hard, and large droplets of cold sweat dripped from his forehead.

After that intense wave of pain, his wounds started to get numb.

This numbing effect was very strong, feeling like tens of thousands of ants had crawled and gnawed on his bones. Leylin's pale face reddened as he sucked in sharply.

At the same time, in the areas where Leylin's left arm was injured, various veins and muscles squirmed and began to regenerate.

First, the fractures in the bone were completely healed, and the flesh and veins followed soon after. After a few minutes, Leylin tested out his left arm.

At this point, the injuries on his left arm had been completely healed. Leylin's arm was slender and fair, but under that beautiful appearance, there were muscles that held much explosive power.

It was impossible to tell that this arm had been on the verge of breaking off just minutes prior.

Leylin tested out his left arm again with some actions and smiled in satisfaction.

"I'm lucky there was some liquid left over from the Flourishing Flower! If not, the injuries on this arm wouldn't have been able to be taken care of so easily."

The Flourishing Flower was an important ingredient used by Magi in operations to regenerate limbs.

No matter what kind of injury it was, as long as there were enough Flourishing Flowers, it would be very likely that one could recover.

The Flourishing Flower that Leylin was holding was something he had gained during his days as an acolyte. He had exchanged some of them in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy for incomplete information about the Branded Swordsman.

Excluding the injuries on his arm, Leylin had also used several potions to treat his wounds. He was now able to move freely and fight in less vigorous battles.

“I’ve mostly recovered. I guess it’s time for me to go to the Marat Canyon!”

Leylin was a fairly cautious person. In the secret plane at the Eternal River Plains, it was dangerous beyond belief, to the point that even Magi were considered fodder! As a spy from the Thousand Meddling Hands, if he were ever to be discovered, he would be chased to the ends of the world!

In this situation, if he were to sustain any injuries, Leylin knew that there was little chance of him surviving, much less being lucky enough to reap benefits.

Leylin had already considered leaving and going somewhere else if his injuries couldn’t be treated.

After all, he still valued his own life over making profits.

However, the situation was not so dire. Though he had made enemies with a possibly high ranking Magus family with the abilities of divination, he didn’t think much of it.

“I believe they aren’t feeling very well right about now, yes? My curse won’t be taken apart very easily.”

Leylin smirked icily.

Though he had not been able to kill his opponents, he had successfully cursed Jenna and Manla with a spell that was unique to him.

The formation of this curse originated from a curse in the great Magus Serholm’s Book of Giant Serpent. Leylin had started the foundations of that curse and had made the appropriate changes to it.

After adding in every method he could think of, the curse was so different from the original that even the great Magus Serholm would be unable to undo it.

Like a password, it was complicated and difficult to make sense of.

If one were not the original maker of the password, and instead tried to use brute force to get through, the object protected by the password would be destroyed.

Jenna and Manla seemed to have high standings within their family, and most likely wouldn't be given up on so easily.

Leylin's next task was to use the power of the curse to find out who his enemies were.

As he had been followed and almost killed on the basis of some useless prediction, Leylin was quite annoyed.

However, there was still a family backing them, and he did not want to shed all sense of cordiality without making sense of the situation before him.

This was why Leylin had chosen not to chase them and had instead placed a mark on both of them.

Chapter 204: Marat Canyon

Marat Canyon was located at the end of Pome Alley.

It was a barren canyon where the area and economy were both destitute. Apart from several wretched people who lived here in extreme poverty, no other humans would bother with a place like this. However, after the discovery that there was an entrance to a secret plane in this area, everything changed.

Ever since one of the entrances to the Eternal River Plains' secret plane was discovered here, Magi from every corner began to fight each other over the area.

Eventually, the hunting and battle teams from Four Seasons Garden, with the aid of the white Magi domain, managed to repel the dark Magi forces and claim this land as theirs.

Soon after this, unaffiliated Magi and acolytes set up a market for magic items in the surroundings.

Four Seasons Garden's higher-ups were well aware this place wasn't well developed and dispatched people here. They treated this Magus Market as the center of their power and created a little town, welcoming all non-dark Magi.

The first impression Leylin had when walking in this small town was that it had a lively atmosphere.

"Looking for members! All of us are level 3 acolytes! We have a healer!"

"The latest map of the secret plane for only 500 magic crystals!"

"Walking Dragon Flower! Walking Dragon Flower that's freshly plucked from the Eternal River Plain's secret plane for 6000 magic crystals! This is a discounted rate!"

"I am looking for a group to join! I'm a level 3 acolyte and have both offensive and defensive skills. I also know three healing rank 0 spells."

From the entrance of the little town, various stall-keepers, adventurers

and official Magi were crowded together, constantly arguing over prices till they were red in the face.

Everyone was at least an acolyte. There were no regular humans.

The whole town was like a busy food market.

After much effort Leylin arrived at Four Seasons Garden's administrative area, which was located in the middle of the town.

Compared to the chaos outside, it was much quieter inside the administrative area, which had the battle and hunting teams guarding the area.

Leylin couldn't help but think about the two official Magi he had seen at the entrance to the administration area.

Getting two official Magi to stand guard obviously caused the Magi and acolytes who came here to feel immense pressure.

Numerous Magi were chattering amongst themselves quietly as they walked by Leylin. All of them looked to be in a hurry.

"Welcome! May I know if you're here to do the entrance procedures? Please provide evidence that you aren't a dark Magus, and then present 500 magic crystals. You will then have a one-time opportunity to enter!"

Leylin came to a counter, and as soon as the personnel saw him, he quickly spoke very formally, as if he were selling tickets.

In reality, Four Seasons Garden's higher-ups had actually capitalized on the opportunity to enter the secret plane by selling entry permits.

"I'm not a Magus from anywhere else. I belong to Four Seasons Garden's Potioneering team and have been transferred here!"

Leylin placed his token of identification on the counter.

"Ah... My apologies, Lord Leylin!"

The personnel took a look at the symbol and name on the token and bowed.

"No worries!" Leylin looked at the several counters that had a long queue

behind them and asked indifferently, “Have there been many magicians going in recently?”

“A large amount have come! Once we had allowed non-affiliated magicians to enter, the Magi and acolytes who came forth to register had filled up this area... We even had to request for several of the hunting team Magi to maintain order!”

The staff smiled wryly.

Leylin was aware of this policy.

Before he came here, he had taken a tour around the town and gathered information.

Though Four Seasons Garden had taken over this entrance, the amount of magicians who came here was no small number. If they kept hogging the entrance, it was sure to trigger someone’s dissatisfaction.

It wasn’t much if it was just acolytes, but when there were wandering official Magi involved, the situation wasn’t as easy to deal with.

If there were dark Magi purposely inciting conflict, then this cause a catastrophe!

Hence, the light Magi factions made a temporary agreement to become allies. They decided to open the entrance up to the public.

All entrances that were controlled by light Magi had rules: other than dark Magi, as long as one paid up 500 magic crystals, one would have the right to enter the secret plane!

In addition to this, there was the condition that acolytes had to give up 50% of their earnings within the secret plane to the light Magi powers guarding the entrance. Even official Magi would have a portion of their profits taken away!

Even with these fees, magicians still flocked here.

They unceasingly entered the secret plane and explored the areas without fear of death. There were some with good luck that managed to survive and leave the area with large amounts of resources. This attracted

more acolytes to enter and risk their lives in the plane.

While these free labourers were dying by the dozen, Four Seasons Garden was hiding in the shadows and stealing portions of their profits. They were earning a fortune from this, and on top of that, through coercion and purchases, they now had a map of almost a million mu of the plane and received precious information firsthand.

To large light Magi organisations like the Four Seasons Garden, the resources that were currently inside the secret plane was just a small reward. What they really hankered after was the continuous production of resources that the secret plane could provide!

Hence, with the resources as the bait, large organisations such as the Four Seasons Garden were able to attract many magicians with no affiliation to risk their lives and enter the secret plane for the resources. In exchange, they would be able to obtain more information regarding the topography and ecosystem within the secret plane.

As for the unaffiliated magicians, even if they were aware of the manipulations and hidden agendas behind the entrance fees, as long as they walked the path of a Magus they had no choice but to enter this profitable scheme that the white Magi had established. As the saying goes, as one is willing to be hit, one is willing to beat.

Even Leylin had no choice but to approve the deviousness of this shrewd plan.

“I have 2 Grand Knights servants with me, they left for this place before me. Have they arrived yet?”

Leylin asked.

“Please wait a minute, I’ll check for you!” The staff hurriedly flipped through the thick book of records and accounting.

“I found it, it’s only yesterday that your two Grand Knights servants brought your mount and luggage here. Also after showing us your identification token, they were allocated to district D9 no. 23!”

The staff member bowed.

“I will report your arrival as soon I can. Regarding your task allocation, someone else will contact and inform you in detail!”

“En! Great!” Leylin nodded his head. After leaving a secret imprint with the staff as a proof of his arrival, he left the great hall through the back door.

Behind the administration area was rows of orderly wooden houses.

These houses were modelled simply, and the edges were rather rough. They looked as if their construction had been rushed.

Within these wooden houses, one could occasionally see a few Magi and acolytes wearing Four Seasons Garden accessories.

In the middle of these buildings, a huge platinum gate that was tens of metres tall was standing tall proudly like a mountain.

It stood tall there like an ancient existence. On the gate were numerous runes connected together. They seemed to be alive and kept wriggling on the gate frame.

Just the aura from the gate to the secret plane made it difficult for Leylin to breathe.

“Is this the entrance to the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane?” Leylin raised his head and surveyed this gate that seemed to be rising into the heavens, eyes full of unspeakable awe.

The preciousness of a secret plane could be told from its entrance.

Entrances to secrets planes comparable to that of the Spirit Slaying Sect’s plane could be easily destroyed by Leylin. The Gargamel that was as strong as a rank 2 Magus even had the terrifying power to break out of such planes!

However, if it were here, that Gargamel might not be able to even create a crack in the gate to the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane!

With an area of more than ten million mu, its internal structure and defences had to be unimaginably strong. Even if rank 2 or 3 Magi were to battle fiercely, the secret plane would be unaffected.

Leylin guessed that even a rank 4 Morning Star Magus would have a hard time trying to destroy this platinum gate.

Such a secret plane could be said to be a continental treasure! It was something that could help large organisations progress rapidly, or aid someone in taking over the world!

After actually seeing Eternal River Plain's secret plane, Leylin finally understood how it could attract Magi from all over the south coast and even cause a Magus war.

"Unfortunately, no Magi organisation in the south coast is confident that it can take over the whole plane. As such, the plane has to be divided."

Leylin sighed and turned his attention to the bottom of the large gate.

At the lower part of the large platinum gate, twenty or so Magi wearing Four Seasons Garden attire were patrolling the area like soldiers.

From these Magi, strong undulations from powerful elemental essence conversions of at least 50% were purposefully released!

Their bloodlust was also very obvious. It was apparent they weren't idiots who were taking the resources based on luck but were actually seasoned Magi warriors!

Blue light flashed in Leylin's eyes, and the A.I. Chip immediately scanned the several spell formations that were laid around the entrance of the secret plane. There were some defensive formations, while others were for detecting intruders.

With such tight security, even if it was Leylin who were to try infiltrate inside, he would only end up dying.

"What's displayed might just be on the superficial level. There would at least be a rank 2 Magus holding fort around here!"

Even outside Four Seasons Garden's secret plane, there was a rank 2 Magus standing guard outside. Leylin did not think when it came to the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, the Four Seasons Garden would be reluctant to send a rank 2 Magus as the guardian.

Chapter 205: Dolorin

Leylin quickly looked at the faces of these Magi.

He remembered each and every Magi that he'd seen at the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters before, but he did not recognize any of the people he saw here. There could only be one reason why these faces were unfamiliar!

They must have been the hidden forces of the Four Seasons Garden, and usually did not show their faces.

From the looks of it, the Four Seasons Garden had taken out all of their trump cards to keep control of the entrance to the secret plane.

Caesar, the three-eyed Magus who was the leader of the hunting team, wasn't here either. If he wasn't hidden somewhere, he must have been on some special mission.

Leylin felt his heart sink, as he was on an undercover mission as a spy for the Thousand Meddling Hands!

It seemed that it was going to be difficult to complete his mission.

Leylin recorded this scene with the A.I. Chip, and followed the signs along the road to find his accommodations.

"Master!"

Leylin approached the wooden house that was in district D9. As they could sense Leylin, the Grand Knights, Number 2 and Number 3, immediately rushed out of the house and knelt on one knee to greet him.

Behind the wooden house, within a fence, the Venom Wyvern, Hawke, had drowsily lifted its head and made a noise of excitement.

"Hm!" Leylin looked over his subordinates that he had remodelled and suddenly regretted having asked them to leave first.

If he hadn't, with the abilities of these two Branded Swordsmen, he wouldn't have to be reduced to that miserable state and be so seriously injured.

“It’s important that I find an opportunity and test out the battle abilities and power of the Branded Swordsmen!”

Leylin glanced at Number 2 and Number 3, who were kneeling respectfully, and rubbed his chin.

.....

The Four Seasons Garden worked very quickly, and during the evening, a worker in something similar to a suit knocked on the door of Leylin’s house.

“Lord Leylin! In the name of the Four Seasons Garden, the elders request that you head for the secret plane tomorrow. You will be taking over zone 13.”

This person was also an official Magus. He spoke very slowly, with clear pronunciation. After reading, he passed a piece of parchment that had been stamped to Leylin.

Leylin raised his arms and took it.

The transfer order was on a stack of rather thick, dull yellow pieces of paper that gave a very firm feeling.

The contents of the order were just as the man had said, and on the bottom of the stack of parchments, there was a stamp that belonged to the Four Seasons Garden, along with a few signatures.

Leylin’s fingers brushed over the stamp.

Sssii! Four rays of light emerged from the stamp and danced atop the parchment, gradually forming a four-coloured ring that was unceasingly turning. After a few moments, the light died down.

This proved that the signatures and stamp were all real!

Leylin became quiet. “Aren’t Potion Masters being called here to take over the roles of healers? Nobody told me I’d be on the frontlines.”

Even if one didn’t have a brain, it would be obvious to them that this was Caesar’s work. Leylin still showed his annoyance and anger.

“I am a potion master, not a fighter! You can’t put me on the same level as those Magi with blood staining their hands. I protest!”

“I’m sorry, but this was a decision from the higher-ups in the Four Seasons Garden! If you have any problems, you can report to the elders within 24 hours. However, as long as the elders do not issue new orders to make your current orders void, you will still need to rush to zone 13 by tomorrow. If not, you will be labelled as a traitor and punished accordingly!”

This man said everything matter of factly, not caring in the least about Leylin’s opinions. He then gave an elegant bow. “If there’s nothing else, I shall take my leave now, Mister Leylin!”

Pak!

After the main door closed, the furious expression Leylin had on instantly disappeared. Instead, Leylin looked as if he was deep in thought.

Ever since he had arrived here, he had been prepared for people to make trouble for him and treat him badly. All of that talk was just a front.

The reason was that if a potion master were to be sent to the frontlines and took the news calmly, it would seem too suspicious.

“But if time is so tight, I need to start with all my preparation now.”

Leylin lowered his head in thought, his eyes sparkling with a faint darkness...

The huge platinum metal gate was, as always, standing tall. Only until Leylin actually stood in front of it did he feel that all that he had seen in the past amounted to nothing in front of this majestic gate.

Now that he was so close to it, Leylin was in awe.

From the gate to the secret plane, he could feel a trace of some ancient aura. What shocked him, even more, was that spiritual force was faintly emanating from the entire gate.

This spiritual force did not belong to any Magus but instead originated from the gate.

“It’s a living being and has its own spiritual waves. Perhaps, after a period of time, it can cultivate an intelligence of its own and become a genuine living creature!”

Leylin sighed in admiration and looked around the area.

Though it was early in the morning, many Magi and acolytes were queuing in front of the gate with tickets in their hands.

As there were tens of powerful Magi all around, it was rather orderly.

As an internal member of the Four Seasons Garden, he naturally didn’t need to queue up, and instead stood together with a few Magi at the optimal location right in front of the gate.

Number 2 and Number 3 were carrying large bags and quietly following behind Leylin.

“It’s 8 am! Open!”

Leylin looked at the hour hand of his pocket watch, which was now pointing to the number 8.

The consumption of energy needed in opening the entrance to such a large scale secret plane was immense. Even the Four Seasons Garden would feel pain at this cost.

Hence, the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane’s entrance would only be opened once a day at this time.

With the loud order, a dozen Magi who had achieved 50% elemental essence conversion placed their palms against the frame of the gate.

Weng Weng!

A violent distortion of space rapidly formed in the middle of the gate and expanded.

Creak!

The gate opened a little, and all of a sudden—light! Numerous rays of white light leaked out, swallowing all Magi and acolytes in front of it!

All Leylin could see was the blinding brightness in front of him, and his

head spun from giddiness. After he regained his composure, he was already on top of a large white square in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane.

“Hah!”

Leylin breathed in deeply.

The first impression he had of the secret plane was that there was an extraordinarily dense amount of elemental particles in the air.

[Calculated density of energy in surroundings, found to be 371% of that in external world!]

The A.I. Chip projected its findings to Leylin.

“There is such a concentrated amount of energy, and on top of that, there's so much land! For Magi, this is basically heaven!”

Leylin was astonished as he spoke.

“Listen up! I'll only say this once!”

After the Magi and acolytes present familiarized themselves with their surroundings, a bald, brawny man who seemed to be in charge came onstage. He was donning the attire that the Four Seasons Garden's Magi wore.

His voice was loud and resonant, echoing within the plaza.

“Attention to all Magi and acolytes who are not affiliated with the Four Seasons Garden! From now on, you are free to move about in the secret plane. As long as they have no markings of the light Magi alliance, all obtained items will belong to yourselves! Also, when you wish to leave the plane, please return to this place. Remember, do not attempt to conceal your earnings! The moment you are found out to have been doing this, you will regret having been born!”

The brawny man was very direct, but the discontent of the masses quickly died down with the appearance of a row of official Magi behind him acting like guards.

After the bald, brawny man announced that they were free to go, the

Magi and acolytes cheered and rushed in all directions like wild horses let out of cages. In a few moments, they were gone.

“Alright! You are Magi from the Four Seasons Garden, yes? Come with me.”

The brawny man turned his attention to Leylin’s side, and his tone and facial expression became much friendlier. “My name is Dolorin, and I am the vice team leader of the Four Seasons Garden’s defense team! If you have any questions, feel free to approach me...”

It was evident that this man treated those in the same organisation as himself a lot better.

“I would like to know, is allowing these external magicians so much freedom actually a good thing? What I’m trying to say is, aren’t you afraid that they’ll stay longer in the secret plane or sneak out through other entrances?”

A petite female Magus enquired.

“Hehe! The Eternal River Plains’ secret plane is very large, and there is danger everywhere! No Magus can stay here alone for too long unless he or she wishes to die in strange and mysterious ways, or become the excrement of high-energy creatures!”

The brawny man obviously disapproved, a look of fear flashing across his face.

“As for your question about leaving, within one million mu, there is only one entrance, which belongs to us. If they wish to travel to other entrances, they would need to go through exceedingly dangerous areas. Some of them are regions that basically require miracles for even official Magi to pass through due to the minuscule chance of survival!”

“Also, our light Magi alliance have all standardised the fees and set up stringent probing methods. This will not give them the chance to smuggle away their gains!”

“To go through such a difficult path and take such a big risk has no meaning basically unless they wish to defect to the dark Magii... However,

I imagine the dark Magi are keener on robbing them of all their gains, and then flaying their skin and breaking their bones to use them as ingredients.”

Dolorin shrugged his shoulders a couple times, emphasizing his words with his facial expression.

Chapter 206: Magus Guard

“Zone 13? You’re really lucky!”

Leylin was brought to an office-like room in a castle. After Dolorin assigned locations to the few Magi who were queued up in front of Leylin, he opened Leylin’s transfer order.

Suddenly, Dolorin let off a surprised squeal. At the same time, he looked at Leylin as if he was cherishing a dear animal.

“Although you are a Potions Master, you were assigned to that place! Kiddo, did you offend someone?”

Leylin could only smile wryly in reply.

“Alright! Alright! As long as the order is correct, I won’t ask anymore. Take this, it’s a map!”

Dolorin slipped a piece of parchment paper to Leylin.

“Zone 13 is at the border between us and the dark Magi powers. Your mission is to protect the Black Mandara Flowers there, and if the dark Magi attack, you are to give a distress call through the signal tower. That’s all!”

Leylin was then sent out of Dolorin’s office like he was the plague.

Leylin could do nothing but roll his eyes at this situation.

.....

With Leylin’s speed, even taking into account the burdens that were Number 2 and Number 3, they hurried and reached zone 13 before dusk.

This area was a small highland and a fort that had been temporarily constructed using an earth elemental spell surrounded the Black Mandara Flowers.

After Leylin provided proof of his identity, he met with the person who had previously been in charge of the area. It was a tall and slender male Magus!

“The signal tower is in the middle of the fort, and your room is beside it. I’m leaving all these items with you. Also, there were some acolytes who had been dispatched here recently; I’ll leave them in your care as well!”

The tall and skinny Magus hurriedly handed over the information, and after obtaining Leylin’s signature, he rapidly left the room as if he was escaping.

This speed left Leylin rather agape.

“Alright, I seem to have gotten myself into some serious trouble now...”
Leylin flipped open the map.

On the map that Dolorin handed him, the highlands of zone 13 that he had been assigned to were like an eyesore, smack dab in the middle of the dark Magi domain.

Since he was surrounded on all sides by the dark Magi powers, there was a high chance of him perishing in that place.

As for the forces that Leylin had, it was merely a few acolytes. Perhaps he would even have to include himself, an official Magus, as a fighting force!

In front of enemies, this trivial bit of power would only be able to warn and call for help.

“...No matter what, I still have to take a look at my subordinates!”

Leylin came to the middle of the hall in the castle and gave a command for everyone to gather. “I am the new Magus guard! All acolytes who hear my voice are to assemble at the hall immediately!”

Leylin’s voice wasn’t loud, but it somehow travelled to every corner of the castle.

A moment later, hurried footsteps were heard and about ten acolytes jogged into the hall.

These acolytes’ attires were messy. Though they all donned the grey robes that signified that they were acolytes, the symbol of their academy and decorative motifs were all different, indicating they were the inferior

acolytes that had been left behind by various academies.

The acolytes gave off energy waves that showed they were around level 2 or 3. Upon seeing Leylin, they all bowed in greeting, though they looked quite bewildered.

Leylin patted his head. That Magus from before had left too eagerly and hadn't even bothered handing over his role to Leylin in front of everyone in the fort.

However, it was a fact that the slender Magus had transferred his symbol of authority to him.

Leylin withdrew a black scepter from his sleeves. Following which, various coloured defensive runes formed a spell formation within the large hall.

The scepter that he was holding on to was the device to control the defensive spell formations within the castle and was showed that he was the Magus leader.

After seeing the black scepter, the acolytes present understood the reason for his presence.

“We greet the Lord Magus Guard!”

“En! I'm Leylin. You! Tell me now, is everyone present?”

Leylin pointed at an old geezer acolyte.

“Rep... Reporting to my Lord! Apart for a few acolytes who have been delayed, the acolytes in this castle are all here...”

The old geezer cowered as he reported to Leylin.

Just at this moment, several acolytes appeared at the entrance of the large hall with fear evident on their faces.

What followed was a rather youthful and apprehensive voice, “Lord, we are the new acolytes that were dispatched here! Our sincerest apologies that due to a previous patrolling mission, we had been delayed. May we seek your permission to enter?”

Even here, with Leylin's position as a Magus, he had much power over these acolytes.

Not only could he issue missions as he pleased, he could even sentence these acolytes to death if he wanted to just by saying they had disobeyed orders!

After all, this was a time of war, and they were at the frontlines. Leylin had these acolytes' lives in his hands, and this caused the few new acolytes to be extremely fearful.

After hearing this voice, Leylin's face revealed an expression of astonishment.

"Come in!" He murmured lowly.

Immediately after, three male and two female acolytes entered the hall, still cowering in fear.

The acolyte standing at the front had a head of brilliant blonde hair, thick eyebrows, and big eyes, and behind him was a female acolyte with a large bow on her back. They looked to be a couple.

He trembled a little, but he clenched his jaw and knelt. "My lord! We had no intentions of being late, but they purposely gave us difficult missions to complete..."

"Utter rubbish!" At this moment, the old geezer, who seemed like a cat that had its tail stepped on, jumped forward. "The missions were all chosen by the Bottle of Famedor; how could there be a problem with it? It's obviously you guys who do not respect our new Lord..."

Looking at this scene, Leylin immediately understood the issue.

It seemed that no matter where it was, it was a tradition for the older guys to bully the newcomers.

"That's enough." He spoke softly, with a gruff tone.

The acolytes present all cowered in fear. The wrath of an official Magus was never a good thing to be about.

"This voice?"

While most of the acolytes were ducking their heads in fear, there were a few contrasting voices ringing out.

They came from the acolytes who had just entered while keeping their heads bowed.

“Ley-Leylin!” George opened his eyes wide and looked at Leylin, who was up on the platform. He was gaping, his mouth opened so wide that he was like a huge toad.

The others, who were making sounds of alarm, also included Sheira and Bessita.

Leylin scratched his nose. Though he knew that these three acolytes had been allocated to the secret plane to stand guard, he never expected that there would be such a coincidence that they would be under him.

“My apologies, my Lord! Although you told us to wait for you, after waiting for 2 days and 1 night, there were no signs of you, my Lord. Also, as the time limit for the mission was approaching, we had no choice but to leave...”

Sheira kowtowed, her forehead pressed against the icy cold floor as she did her best to explain.

Leylin nodded his head, he remembered that he had mentioned it before. However, after the battle with Jenna, he had been severely injured and immediately needed a place to recuperate. Where could he have found the time to bother with them?

After that, he had already forgotten about George and his party.

“I don’t blame you for this! Previously I had an urgent matter to attend to, which took up much of my time...” Leylin explained.

Peng! Peng! Peng!

At this moment, the old geezer acolyte who had jumped forward realised that George and his party were not nobodies who could be picked on. On the contrary, they were backed by an official Magus. He felt as if his soul was wrenched out of his body.

Quickly kneeling on the floor, he kowtowed until fresh blood appeared on his forehead.

“Lo... Lord! Please forgive me!”

The old geezer felt exceptional fear. As an official Magus, Leylin had many methods to make him die a horrible death. Furthermore, conflicts such as these were like child’s play in front of an official Magus; he couldn’t hope to conceal this conflict.

With Sheira’s constant tugging at him, George finally got himself together. As he looked up at his good friend, who seemed to be so far away from him, his expression was complicated.

They were once good friends, but Leylin had surpassed George by such a huge margin that the old man, who was usually hard to deal with, was kowtowing and begging his pardon.

This was a complex feeling that was difficult to make sense of in a short period of time.

George’s head was spinning. Although Sheira had told him about Leylin after he woke up, seeing the truth of Leylin’s real identity for himself was much different from just hearing about it from others.

However, George was well aware that he could not maintain the relationship he had with Leylin in the past.

It would only be possible if he advanced and became an official Magus, and Leylin did not increase his power and stayed at his current position.

But how was that possible?

George looked at the dashing young man with jet-black hair. “Leylin is only twenty now, right? To actually advance successfully at this age indicates that he has a talent that I can never catch up to...”

In comparison to George and Sheira, Bessita, who was at the side, was stunned, and her expression was even more complicated.

Emotions such as shock, regret, and fear, along with some other emotions she could not make sense of cycled through her face.

“That’s enough!”

Leylin waved his hand with an indifferent direction, motioning for the old geezer to stop his kowtowing.

“I don’t care for your matters. However, from today onwards, such petty conflicts must end. If anyone continues with it, causing our forces to dwindle and letting the enemy gain an advantage, I will draw the culprit’s spirit from his or her body, and torture it for a hundred years. Are we all clear on this?”

Leylin knew deep down that such bullying traditions could not be avoided. Under normal circumstances, if it was not for the fact that he knew George and his group, he would not have given a hoot about the issue.

However, with Leylin here now, not only would these acolytes stop bullying George and his party, they would even do their best to curry favour with them. As a result, he did not have much to say.

Chapter 207: Harvesting

“Alright, if there’s nothing else, you are dismissed!”

Leylin looked at George, who appeared to have something to say but kept stopping himself, and then at Bessita and the others who kept silent. He could feel his enthusiasm waning.

Ever since he advanced to become an official Magus, he seemed to be in a different world compared to his original social circles.

Even though his old acquaintances were right in front of him, they felt incredibly unfamiliar, as if hundreds of thousands of years had passed.

“Understood!”

The acolytes under him bowed and quickly retreated.

Even George and Bessita left the hall cautiously after bowing.

Bessita, who was the last to leave, gave Leylin an incomprehensible look and quickly withdrew.

.....

In the dark hours of the night, after completing one round of Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique, Leylin was lying in bed resting. Suddenly, he opened his eyes.

Immediately after, a soft knocking came from outside.

“Come in! The door’s not locked!” Leylin got up and spoke indifferently.

The door creaked open, and a human figure dressed in a grey cloak walked in.

“Bessita! What can I do for you?” Leylin glanced at this girl with silvery white hair, his eyes giving off a mischievous aura.

“Lord Leylin, please forgive Bessita for her previous offences!”

Bessita’s voice was mild and gentle as she spoke softly. Following which, she removed the cloak that she was wearing and revealed a stark naked body that was underneath it.

Bessita's body had matured from the time he had last seen her. Her body was extremely voluptuous and with exquisite snow-white skin; it seemed as if water would gush forward when the skin was pinched.

Bessita looked at Leylin as she slowly knelt down. In her ruby red eyes, there seemed to be a fawning look earnestly seeking forgiveness.

One might wonder about the feeling of having a beautiful and stunning girl kneeling in front of you, stark naked, for your forgiveness, in the wee hours of the night.

Right now Leylin had experienced it for himself.

However, his expression was serene, as if Bessita's seductive and delicate body was but a broken skeleton in his eyes.

Leylin looked over this intelligent, but also shrewd girl.

"You are smart, but at times, you're too smart for your own good!"

He raised his right hand and caressed Bessita's face, and then trailed it down to her breasts.

"You're trying to seduce me? Just with these two lumps of flesh?"

Leylin's right hand wantonly rubbed at Bessita's soft breasts. The girl moaned, her expression filled with pain.

Bessita suddenly felt an immense sense of dread attack her.

Her might as a level 3 acolyte was nothing to Leylin. What she did have confidence in, however, was her striking beauty.

However, looking at Leylin's icy gaze, she suddenly felt that all she had just done was shameless and laughable.

Leylin's cold eyes left her feeling suffocated.

Her body continuously trembled as cold sweat dripped down. With the passing of time, Bessita's body became flushed and her face pale. It was as if she could die from the lack of air at any given moment.

"However! Rejoice! To commemorate the previous 'me', I have decided to give you a chance!"

Just as when Bessita was about to faint, Leylin spoke softly.

Only then did she recollect herself, and she panted heavily. Previously, it was as if a giant hand was choking her. The feeling of being suffocated disappeared when Leylin spoke.

Bessita took in the fresh air in large gulps with teardrops on the verge of flowing.

There had never been a time where being able to breathe freely was something she considered a blessing.

“Come with me!”

Leylin shook his head and opened the door to a partitioned room.

Bessita trembled and picked up her cloak, which was on the floor, and covered her delicate, naked body.

She had been able to entice Leylin without feeling apprehensive, but now, all she felt was shame. Such a strange feeling made her turn beet red, wishing there was a hole that would swallow her up.

After going through the door to another room, Bessita found that she had come to a secret room that was entirely sealed.

It was a small room, and one could see traces of the bricks on the walls.

In the middle of the secret room, there was a cumbersome metal desk that was similar to that of an experimentation table. Fixed on the four corners of the table were handcuffs and legcuffs.

Looking at this metal desk, Bessita’s face turned pale.

She wanted to retreat, yet she did not dare to. Then she realised that oddities were hanging on chamber walls.

For example, there was a short cudgel that was littered with small beads on its surface. There was also a large syringe filled with various glass pearls within, with a suction pad and handle and other strange add-ons.

Bessita’s heart sank like a weighted rock.

Of course she was aware that many official Magi had strange fetishes.

She had even heard of a story where a professor in her academy ate a girl while she was still alive after having finished toying with her.

“Don’t misunderstand, this isn’t mine, but a gift left behind by the previous Magus...”

Leylin fetched a unique binding instrumentation made with cotton and metal chains from the wall. “But I realised that his hobbies are quite similar to my own, in the past...”

Here, Leylin was naturally referring to that unfortunate idiot who had died and allowed Leylin to take over his body.

Leylin didn’t like Bessita since she had been taking advantage of him before. Hence, he was planning to teach her a lesson she wouldn’t forget.

The previous Leylin had suffered a great deal at the hands of others, and had eventually died.

Leylin believed that since he had taken over everything that belonged to the previous Leylin, it might be his duty to take revenge on his behalf. It wasn’t anything that difficult anyway.

“These items here have been modified and are exactly what ‘I’ liked.”

Leylin glanced at Bessita who was in front of him; a malicious smirk was on his face...

After Leylin willfully vented his feelings, he seemed to be completely fine the next morning and handled matters in the fort.

Bessita, however, struggled as she emerged from the secret room the second night.

Her face was completely pale and her bones seemed to have no feeling in them. The scent of blood was strong on her, and Bessita stayed in bed for a whole week before she could force herself to walk.

If this had happened before, acolytes would have expressed their disapproval and complained.

But now, even if Bessita were to be absent for seven days, they could only tolerate her behaviour. After all, not every acolyte could have relations

with an official Magus, right?

She suffered repercussions after that incident, and every time she looked at Leylin, both her legs would involuntarily shake as if she had seen a devil.

Of course, Leylin didn't care about that.

Once he had used all the methods that he had gleaned from the previous Leylin's memories on Bessita, he never approached her again.

The reason for what he did to her wasn't because of some perverted desire or hobby. He simply wanted to punish her and take revenge for the original Leylin Farlier.

Hence, after heartily venting his anger, all matters regarding Bessita had been forgotten.

Leylin was currently patrolling the sea of Black Mandara Flowers.

These black flowers had petals that were the size of a palm. Atop were blue spots that were like stars, and in the night they would even give off milky white rays of light.

The Black Mandara Flower was a subdivision of the Mandara Flower. Their petals were an extremely precious resource for acolytes and even official Magi who specialized in negative energy.

In the external world, a Black Mandara Flower petal could sell for a staggering price of over 1,000 magic crystals!

And here, what Leylin had in front of him was a whole sea of these flowers!

"The resources in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane are so bountiful that it makes one's hair stand erect!" Leylin exclaimed even though it was not the first time he had seen them.

A pity that above this sea of Black Mandara Flowers there was a surveillance spell. Before he decided to turn his back on the light Magi, he had to temporarily restrain any notions of seizing the flowers for himself.

In addition to the surveillance spell, there were intricate probing spell

formations at every entrance to the secret plane . The question of how to secretly transport these resources out was a very troublesome problem.

Now he could understand why the Four Seasons Garden wanted to erect a fort in this area.

Occupying a strategic location was just one aspect, but Four Seasons Garden could also not give up this huge sea of flowers.

Although the Eternal River Plains' secret plane was extremely vast and had bountiful resources, this sea of Black Mandara Flowers was extremely valuable even amongst the other resources in here.

If not for this terrible location, the Four Seasons Garden may have most likely sent a large army to defend this area.

“Lord! Our task every day is to try harvest as many of these Black Mandara Flowers and transport them away before the enemy arrives!”

Beside the sea of flowers, an acolyte trailed behind Leylin and explained the concrete details.

“Ennea Rings bless us! As those damned dark Magi discovered several large-scale resource areas, skirmishes arose as a result. We will most likely be facing a large amount of dark Magi forces... There are still some dark Magi and acolytes who try to break through the defenses every once in a while to steal the resources. Furthermore, we also have to guard against certain light Magi...”

This acolyte smiled wryly.

“I understand! Anyway, our mission is to harvest all these flowers as soon as we can and fend off wandering Magi and acolytes. If we are in a situation of distress, we have to send a signal. Is that right?”

Leylin asked indifferently.

“Yes, that’s about it!” The acolyte’s smile turned even more bitter.

Such a tactic was plainly inviting Leylin and his party to dance at the edges of a sword and use their lives in exchange for resources.

“I got it!” Leylin spoke solemnly after a moment of silence.

Chapter 208: Conflict with Ciel

Leylin looked over the immeasurable number of black flowers in the distance as he calculated their progress.

As long as all these Black Mandara Flowers were harvested, the headquarters wouldn't have any reason to prevent him and the others from leaving.

All the acolytes that Leylin had previously met were currently in the sea of flowers, carrying simple containers made from green vines. Their hands were covered with rings of dark energy particles as they plucked the Black Mandara Flowers with great care.

"This progress is too slow!"

With this kind of harvesting speed, Leylin estimated that it would take at least another month before this field of flowers would be completely harvested.

The opposing dark Magi would never give them so much time.

"I must find a way to speed up the process!"

Leylin squatted on the ground. With his hands covered by the dark light of a magic spell, he touched the petals of the Black Mandara Flowers, a light flashing in his blue eyes.

Ding Ling Ling!

Suddenly, a series of shrill sounds, like those of a small bell, rang.

Buzz buzz! A barrier of white light was emitted to tightly surround the field of Black Madara Flowers.

"The defensive spell formation has been activated! There's an intruder!"

An acolyte started to yell, "Everyone, beware!"

Whoosh! Suddenly, a dark silhouette darted out from the high grass surrounding the field of flowers.

Crack! Crack!

Two huge white skulls emerged from the hands of the black silhouette.

The skulls didn't have bodies attached to them, and floated in the air spookily. Inside each of the skulls' eye sockets was a red ball of continuously burning flames.

These huge skulls opened their jaws, revealing fine, sharp, white teeth as they bit into the white light barrier.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The white light of the barrier was blinking constantly, as if it would break at any moment.

"Oh!" The black silhouette exclaimed in surprise, seemingly unsatisfied with his own performance. Following which, a black aura consisting of energy particles appeared around his body.

Suddenly, the black energy aura emitted a serene light, which turned into two streaks of light as they hit the skulls.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The red fire within the skull's eye sockets suddenly expanded, and the structure of the skulls expanded considerably. Cracks even appeared on the surface of the skull. It seemed that the energies inside were expanding too rapidly and the skulls were on the verge of bursting.

Following this transformation, the offensive power of these two skulls increased. The white light barrier kept shrinking, and in the end, it finally broke in front of the crestfallen acolytes.

"A semi-converted elemental Magus? We are finished!"

A more experienced acolyte collapsed to the ground with an expression filled with despair.

"Fear not! Lord Leylin is also an official Magus!" George held the small hand of the trembling Shiera.

"What would you know!" The previous acolyte, who had collapsed to the ground, yelled in despair, "Our side only has this newly advanced and outcasted Magus! On the other hand, our opponent is a powerhouse who

has been an official Magus for dozens of years. Being a semi-converted elemental magus, all his spells are stronger by at least half! At this stage, he is simply invincible as compared to those newly advanced Magi!”

Believing that his end was nearing, this acolyte didn’t care any more. He even started to be disrespectful towards Leylin.

“Hehe! A very interesting explanation, but quite accurate nonetheless!”

The black silhouette walked unhurriedly towards the flower field, and revealed himself to Leylin and the rest.

He was a young green-haired Magus. He was dressed in a strange black robe, which had a few green skulls and chains embroidered on it.

“He’s from Kurute Academy, which is known for its methods of torture and use of the spirits of the dead!” Leylin’s eyes flashed as he recognized this Magus in front of them.

This Kurute Academy was only a tiny faction within the dark Magi of the south coast.

They produced plenty of lunatics, and mentally unsound people. Even the other dark Magi could not stomach their actions, and hence, they only partook in sporadic missions and were often excluded from various operations.

The green haired Magus clasped his hands behind his back and greedily looked over the sea of Black Mandara Flowers.

“What an enchanting atmosphere... I can detect the taste of darkness...” The youth muttered.

Following which, he turned and stared at Leylin with his dark green eyes.

“Light Magi! Kneel before me, the great Lord Ciel, and offer to me your souls and devotion. Then I might consider letting you be my slaves...”

This Magus named Ciel had a rather proud demeanor, but Leylin could understand why.

The age of a Magus couldn’t be determined just by looking at their physical appearance, but Leylin could estimate that this Ciel was around

50 years old based on the energy waves he was unknowingly releasing.

His being able to become a semi-converted elemental magus at such a young age did indeed give him the rights to be proud, but he had met the wrong opponent.

Leylin smirked, but before he even had the chance to speak, the acolyte that sunk to the ground previously had already hastened towards Ciel, kneeling and kissing the ground before Ciel.

“Esteemed Lord Ciel! I am willing to serve you! I will become your most loyal slave!”

It was clear that the actions of this acolyte was a complete surprise to everyone.

Next to Leylin, plenty of acolytes carried expressions of scorn. They clearly didn’t know that this acolyte who normally carried himself rather decently would turn into this kind of person at a crucial moment.

The other acolytes were able to conceal the internal struggle within them such that it did not show on their faces.

“Very good! I’ll accept you as a servant!” Ciel revealed a strange smile on his face as he proceeded to extend his left hand and gently wiped the face of the acolyte.

“Ahhh!”

White smoke rose, accompanied by the pained scream of the acolyte.

Ciel’s left hand was like a red-hot iron plate as it left a large black charred mark on the face of the acolyte.

While the acolyte was screaming, the Magus looked extremely excited as he slid his fingers over the acolyte’s face repeatedly.

A little over ten seconds later, a complete rune mark was burned into the face of the acolyte.

The front of the mark resembled a skull, with a chain extending from within.

“Thank... Thank you my Lord for... this gift!”

The acolyte struggled to salute once more.

“Haha... After receiving my mark, you are now my slave forever!” Ciel laughed, then looked over at Leylin.

“What is it? Light Magus, are you scared silly?”

“Not really!” Leylin shook his head.

“I just think he’s a bit pitiful, that’s all!” Leylin pointed towards the acolyte who had half his face ruined, his facial muscles still twitching.

“Why is that?” Ciel rubbed his fingers as slivers of white gas emerged from his fingers to form the shape of a skull.

The elemental particles surrounding his body was faintly discernable as his eyes emitted a dangerous light.

“Blurgh!” The acolytes behind Leylin all fell back, and some of them even doubled over and started to hurl.

The radiation from an official Magus, especially when voluntarily released from a powerful Magus with such a high degree of elemental conversion was something that acolytes found hard to deal with.

“He-will he be alright?”

George was supporting Shiera as he retreated quite a distance. He then glanced worriedly at Leylin, who had remained behind.

“Relax! Lord Leylin is very powerful!” As Shiera recovered, she also started to comfort her lover.

Even though she had previously seen Leylin in action, she couldn’t quite understand how powerful he actually was. She only said those things to comfort George.

“It’s just that... Leylin is still newly advanced, I’m afraid that...” George held Shiera’s hand tightly.

Judging from how Ciel acted had before, one could tell he was probably crazy. If Leylin lost, then these acolytes would probably end up for the

worse.

Shiera could only smile bitterly as she secretly prayed for Leylin.

“He’ll have to pay the price because he swore his loyalty to the wrong person!”

Leylin’s spoke indifferently as if he hadn’t even noticed Ciel’s previous magic display.

“What? You’re planning to...?” Ciel raised his eyebrows. He couldn’t understand. From the reports, it was said that this was a newly advanced Magus who was a mere potion master. How dare he ignore him?

Ciel pointed at Leylin!

It was as if the large skull had received a command and it charged towards Leylin, simultaneously spewing forth dark green flames!

Bang!

Leylin steeled himself for the attack with a nonchalant expression and charged forth.

“Is he crazy?” Before Ciel could finish his sentence, Leylin uttered a single syllabled word.

Immediately a dark red light erupted forth from within Leylin’s body.

The Falling Star Pendant’s defence activated immediately and formed a dark red barrier around Leylin. As the light condensed, it turned into something that resembled an illusionary armor.

Boom!

Dark green flames exploded on Leylin’s body, though no harm was caused.

Leylin advanced, bathed in fire like the incarnation of an ancient fiery war god. He swung his right fist viciously.

Bam!

The large skull was blown away, leaving a trace of fine bone dust as it spun through the air.

Pow! After being sent upside down over a distance, the white skull finally broke apart.

“You...” Ciel was attempting to speak as he pointed towards Leylin.

But it was too late now!

Leylin kept his face blank and charged in front of Ciel.

He suddenly slashed with his hand, the red light around his hands extending and forming a crimson long sword.

Slash!

The long sword broke through the air and appeared in front of Ciel’s chest.

“Argh...” The muscles on Ciel’s face contorted, and just as the sword was about to pierce his body, numerous green chains emerged from within his body to form chainmail.

Chapter 209: Optimised and Easy

The red blade collided with the green chains, causing an intense wave of force.

Crack! Crack!

The long red blade shattered into pieces, and a part of the chain mail armour on Ciel's chest broke off. Several green rings had been chopped in half and fallen to the ground.

"You... You're not any normal Magus who has just advanced!"

Ciel retreated, his expression showing his regret.

Leylin was indifferent as he charged at him.

"Wait... Wait a minute! We can discuss this! I still have many... Argh!"

Although Ciel wanted to say more, Leylin did not give him the chance to do so.

He pursued Ciel and struck again, black scales covering his clenched fist and emitting a glossy black lustre.

The first punch! Ciel's chest was caved in, and countless green iron rings were shattered.

The second punch! Ciel's innate defense spell was utterly destroyed. He retreated with his chest caved in and blood dripping from the corner of his lips.

"Do you have any last words?" Leylin expressionlessly approached him.

"M-My mentor will seek revenge for me!" Ciel incessantly said like a broken record.

"Boring!" Leylin prepared his third attack!

Boom! Ciel's brain exploded like a watermelon, white and red liquids mixing together and spreading all over the ground.

The acolyte who had had his face branded was on the floor, staring blankly at the headless corpse that no longer had any life within it. He

didn't even have the presence of mind to wipe off the blood that had splashed on his face.

"I... I... I..."

George gaped and shook Shiera's arm, "Was that person really a mighty semi-converted Magus? Are you sure he wasn't an acolyte?"

"Definitely! Just a glare from him could kill us!" Shiera forced a laugh.

"Then... What kind of power must Lord Leylin have to have been able to defeat and even kill him?"

George watched Leylin, who was poking around Ciel's corpse, with a complicated expression on his face.

"Lo... Lord..."

Only then, the acolyte standing at the side came to his senses.

Just then, there was an arrogant semi converted Magus. How did he just die like that at Lord Leylin's hands?

"Now, how do we handle the matter of Lyhart's desertion?"

The deserter acolyte sat mindlessly on the floor like a fool as he unconsciously repeated nonsense. The secret imprint that Ciel had left on him was extremely eye catching.

"There should be an established punishment by the alliance to punish all deserters, right? Do you actually need me to teach you that?"

Leylin shot a glance at the acolyte.

Although it was just a glance, the acolyte immediately retreated several steps, and even his calves turned wobbly.

"N-No, my Lord!"

This newly-turned traitor was tied up by a few others and sent to the fort. The acolytes present all displayed terror and dread on their faces.

"Lyhart's finished!" an acolyte murmured.

As per the rules and regulations set by the light Magi alliance, all

acolytes and Magi who defected to the enemy's side received the worst punishments.

Lyhart had betrayed them so blatantly in front of Leylin and the many acolytes, and he even had a secret imprint from the opposing Magus. This was irrefutable evidence.

In this situation, death was the easiest way out.

If he had the misfortune to meet a strict judge, at the very least, his spirit would be extracted and tortured for a hundred years. His family and mentor would also have to face some calamities.

“Why are you so distracted? Get to work! Do you want to stay here all day?”

Leylin looked over at the stunned acolytes and exclaimed icily.

“Ah, yes, my lord!”

Only then did the acolytes respond and continue with their harvesting. Not even George and Shiera were spared.

If they did not finish harvesting this patch of Black Mandara Flowers, they would not be allowed to return to the Magus base camp. No matter how powerful Leylin was, he would eventually be pressured by the dark Magus forces.

It might not even take that long. If the enemy was less stressed and decided to focus 0.1% or even 0.01% of their attention on this place, they would be doomed.

Hence, the acolytes worked diligently, hoping they would complete their mission today and leave this damned place.

“Restore!”

At the other end, Leylin was in the middle of the sea of flowers. He drew the black scepter, muttering a single word.

Weng!

A ring of whiteness spread from the scepter, and like a thin thread,

seeped into the ground.

At the same time, from the bottom of the flowers, the white spell formation appeared once again.

White threads that looked like spiderwebs surged, restoring the areas that had been destroyed by the dark magus.

[Jaye Defense formation—Second form! Defense against physical attacks: 20 degrees. Resistance against magical attacks... Energy in store: 34.9%]

A screen appeared in front of Leylin's eyes, presenting him with information about the spell formation.

With the help of the A.I. Chip, the restoration works were very successful. A few areas that had been damaged were perfectly repaired by the A.I. Chip simulating and Leylin physically fixing them.

"But the defensive capabilities of this formation are much too weak..."

Leylin stroked his chin, wondering if he should modify this spell formation to increase its defense.

As the Magus who stood guard here, Leylin was able to gain a portion of the Black Mandara Flowers, the ratio was so miserable that he cared little for it.

However, the rate at which the acolytes completed their task was directly related to how soon he would be able to leave. If there were attacks everyday, how would the acolytes harvest the petals?

Hence, Leylin's first priority was to ensure the safety of the acolytes so they could finish the task as quick as possible.

"I should just wait until it's late at night and finish it myself!"

Leylin looked at the acolytes who were bending their backs and working like farmers, a gloomy look in his eyes.

It wasn't that he didn't trust the acolytes, but he was used to having some trump cards.

He could also come up with methods to increase the rate of harvesting. As long as he increased the rate at which the A.I. Chip operated, and prioritised this task, it would take but a few days.

It was highly possible that by that time, the acolytes would be able to work quicker.

.....

In the blink of an eye, about half a month had passed.

In Eternal River Plains' secret plane, the round disc in the sky began to descend, leaving a shadow on the ground.

The Magi organisation that had constructed this secret plane had used some sort of spell and structured it so that there was a sun, moon, and different seasons.

However, based on Leylin's hypothesis and the A.I. Chip's calculations, the sun and moon inside the plane had a hint of the energy of the original celestial bodies, which those ancient Magi were able to project into the secret plane using an unknown method

Leylin was in awe of the ancient Magi's methods and boldness.

In Teljose City, the humans had made use of the volcano to allow increased production in its vicinity through the use of a spell, and just this had left Leylin agape. However, compared to the ancient Magi who could take the stars, embrace the moon, cause storms with one wave of their hands, and cast rain with another wave of their hands, Leylin had to bow down in inferiority.

"Not only is Lord Leylin a mighty Magus, he actually specialises in the study of plants!"

In the sea of flowers, two acolytes who were nearest to him were in conversation while their hands were busy.

"That's a given; after all, he is an official Magus! It's not something we acolytes can compare to."

The male acolyte who had just spoken had short red hair. At this

moment, there was a layer of blue light coating his hands. After rubbing his fingers, several strands of blue thread coiled itself around the Black Mandara Flowers.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

The sound of a flower being cut was heard. Following which, the petals of that Black Mandara Flower floated down slowly from its stem and was kept safely by the acolyte, who placed it inside a bag.

“Previously, every petal required a large consumption of magic power and spiritual force to acquire. Even Krall, who was the best amongst us, could only pluck 20 petal pieces in a day! However, ever since Lord Leylin imparted a new method to us, even I can harvest over 40 petals in a single day...”

The red haired acolyte had a look of admiration.

“With this kind of speed, as long as we endure for a couple more days, we will be able to leave this damned place!”

The other acolyte who spoke revealed an obvious hint of longing, “I don’t wish to stay for another day in this place! With so many dark Magi and acolytes coming to attack us each day, we would have died over a hundred times if not for Lord Leylin here!”

Boom!

At this moment, the alert from the defense spell formation had sounded. However, these two acolytes seemed to have not heard it at all, as they continued to diligently harvest the petals.

“Say...Who do you think is the unfortunate one today?”

The red haired acolyte asked with some schadenfreude.

“It should be another official Magus. Regular acolytes do not have such large energy wave fluctuations!” The other acolyte creased his brows before stooping down again to pluck more petals.

“Anyways, with Lord Leylin around, what’s there to fear?”

“You’re right!” The red haired acolyte nodded his head and began his

day's chores.

.....

At this moment, within the castle's walls.

In a gloomy, moist, and dark underground prison cell devoid of light, Leylin strode forward, carrying a black clothed figure on his arms.

Crash! The cell gate was opened, and Leylin tossed the person he carried into the cell without a care.

Bang! As flesh and the hard floor made contact, there was a loud thudding noise.

The person who was previously unconscious was now awake.

Chapter 210: Handover

“You...you dare imprison me!? I swear on my name, Jocelyn Lena, that I definitely won't let you off!”

This Magus, who was called Jocelyn Lena, donned a black robe. Her hair was curly, and her eyeliner make-up was extremely thick. Dark circles were prominent under her eyes, making it look as if she had not slept in days.

She had numerous bizarre silver piercings on her skin, and she also had a few earrings.

The general impression that she gave was that she was a non-mainstream teenage girl who had taken a wrong step in life.

“Jocelyn, yes?”

Leylin stood by the door, snapping his fingers.

Immediately after, the metal door seemed to have developed a life of its own and automatically closed. Meanwhile, metal chains climbed and locked the cage, and then branded the symbol of a black snake onto the entrance of it.

“I don't care who you are. As you are a dark Magus attacking us to pilfer the Four Seasons Garden's resources, I hereby arrest you on the account of attempted robbery. Someone will take you away soon. Once you are at the light Magi's headquarters, I imagine you'll have to start thinking of ways to escape your fate of being burned at the stake.”

Leylin said expressionlessly, and then commanded a nearby acolyte, “I've temporarily suppressed their abilities, so watch them well till the defense squad takes over!”

“Yes, my lord!” The acolyte bowed deeply.

In these past few days, Leylin had given a little demonstration of his power, and that had been enough to instill fear into these acolytes.

All the dark Magi who had come to provoke them were easily taken care

of by Leylin within a few rounds, whether they were acolytes or official Magi.

Just the number of Magi taken captive was enough to fill the fort's jail to the seams. Leylin had no choice but to notify the defense squad. They worked out a schedule where they would take the prisoners away every few days.

"This power isn't something that an ordinary Magus could even hope for! This Lord Leylin must be some amazing, important person!" the acolyte roared madly in his heart as he lowered his head.

Leylin cared little about this acolyte's mental activities, and he cared even less about the female prisoner Magus, who was cursing hysterically. He shook his head and left the underground dungeon.

"Just wait! My uncle absolutely won't let you off!"

From within the dungeon, Jocelyn was hatefully saying, "My uncle became a semi-converted Magus twenty years ago, and entered the secret plane with me. The moment he finds out what happened to me, he'll definitely come save me! When that happens, I'll—"

"That's enough, Jocelyn! Can you be quiet?"

A helpless voice that held a hint of bitterness sounded from the opposite jail cell.

A curly haired middle-aged man appeared from the shadows and awkwardly greeted Jocelyn.

"Uncle-Uncle Luge, why are you here?"

Jocelyn covered her mouth, completely stunned.

"I was actually captured and brought here three days ago," The curly-haired man called Luge forced a smile.

"The Magus guard in charge of this fortress, Leylin, seems to have reached the peak of a rank 1 Magus. I felt the terrifying undulations that could only belong to Magi who have reached the top."

Jocelyn was stunned. The sole person she was counting on had long

since been captured, and thinking back to how she had been cursing incessantly, she had looked as foolish as a clown.

.....

“These are the Black Mandara Flower’s petals that we gathered today. They have had spells cast on them to ensure their freshness for at least fifteen days.”

Leylin pointed at a pile of materials that had been piled neatly to the side, and then at a few Magi who were in black robes and had their hands and legs cuffed, “These are the dark Magi caught recently. Take them away as well.”

“Yes, my lord!”

The one taking the petals and Dark Magi for Leylin was also an official Magus who was followed by a few team members of the same rank. In front of Leylin, however, he could not help but lower his body and spoke with honorifics.

In the Magus World, whether one was a light or dark Magus, the basic principle was that power was everything.

The team leader was only a semi-converted Magus, and Leylin had passed several dark Magi of that strength to him.

In battle, taking an official Magus captive was obviously much more difficult than simply defeating or killing them.

Hence, after being made aware of Leylin’s abilities, the team leader was unable to treat Leylin condescendingly and looked like he was meeting his boss every time he came.

“Hm! Three are official Magi, of which one is female, and thirteen are acolytes...”

This female Magus was naturally Jocelyn, whose complexion was deadly pale as if she had been dealt a serious blow and did not dare to provoke Leylin.

The team leader quickly recorded this information down and signed his

name on a form.

Afterwards, he couldn't help but greeting him using Magus etiquette.

“Lord Leylin! Your accomplishments in the field have far surpassed mine. Once we return to the main headquarters, your rewards and contribution points will be given to you all at once!”

As it was basically a war in the secret plane, the prisoners that Leylin had taken captive could be turned into merit points.

Not only could merit points be used to exchange for special items that could only be found within the Eternal River Plains' secret plane from the large light Magi organisations, it could also be used to obtain unique items from other academies.

This included advanced knowledge, improved spell formations, precious potions, and the like.

“Alright!” Leylin nodded.

Based on his estimations, if the merit points he had gained could be converted into magic crystals, he would have least several million. This meant that soon, he could leave this place behind.

As a better method for harvesting had been provided, about half of the Black Mandara Flowers had been picked, and only a relatively small amount was left.

At the rate they were working at, the Black Mandara Flowers would be completely harvested in less than four days. And at that time, Leylin and the others would be able to leave this damned place.

Every time he saw the defense squad coming in fully armed, Leylin was filled with annoyance!

.....

As the goods that were to be transported were of extreme importance, the means of transportation provided to the transportation team was the Toucan.

This type of bird had a large body, and when matured, could grow up to

ten metres tall.

Its beak drooped downwards, forming a large space that was basically a room that could store many items and even humans!

The team leader split up his team evenly and directed them into the beaks of three Toucans, leaving the best spot for himself. On top of the box full of Black Mandara Flower petals, he began to rest.

At the thought that he was sleeping on top of several million magic crystals, his heart began to burn involuntarily.

If not for the almost abnormal strictness that the light Magi alliance had at the entrance checks, and the fact that it was impossible to smuggle things out, even he might have harboured some terrible thoughts.

It was warm in the Toucan's beak, and even when it was flying high in the sky, not a current of air came through. It was very comfortable, and as the team leader shut his eyes, he began to fall asleep.

Crash!

All of a sudden, the surroundings rocked and several boxes were overturned and fell to the ground.

"What's happening?"

He exclaimed in shock.

Immediately after, a secret imprint by his ear brightened. "Leader, it's an enemy attack! It's the dark Magi!"

The voice of his subordinate travelled from the imprint, and he sounded fearful.

"Those wretched things!" He cursed, and shouted through his secret imprint, "Prepare for landing; all members, get ready for war!"

Boom!

Before he had finished speaking, an intense explosion sounded, followed by squawks of pain from the Toucan he was riding in.

Flames swept through in a horizontal line, burning through the

Toucan's tough beak and revealing the blue sky.

Whoosh!

Large amounts of cold wind flowed in, and the boxes filled with Black Mandara Flower petals were strewn across the floor.

"Despicable! Land quickly!" The team leader hurriedly yelled.

If he lost these resources, all the blame would be placed on him. How could he not be anxious?

The Toucan was calling weakly.

Finally, as if the flying Toucan could no longer take on any more attacks, its entire body lost balance and fell from the sky like a rock.

Rumble!

The Toucan's huge body smashed into some shrubbery and left a deep indent on the ground. Various little animals revealed themselves and quickly escaped in the opposite direction.

"Pah! Pui! Pui!"

Covered in dirt and grime, the team leader emerged from the Toucan's beak and attempted to spit out the grass and leaves in his mouth.

"I swear I will learn a flight spell when I go back this time!"

The leader vowed vehemently. It honestly felt terrible to be hurtled through the air.

"Unfortunately, you won't be getting the chance to do that!"

An ominous voice sounded, and several people in dark Magus attire with green light shining in their eyes surrounded him.

"Oh my! It seems I'm quite popular, eh?"

Looking at this scene, the team leader looked to be extremely dumbfounded, and just stared blankly at the opposing the dark Magi.

"Woofter magic arrows!"

A shrewd light flashed in the leader's eyes, and his clothes exploded,

countless fine needles flying towards the surrounding Magi.

“Go!”

He howled, and streams of lights and shadows flashed, rushing out in all directions to break out of the circle of people around him.

At this moment, he could clearly see the state around him.

The Toucans, which served as a mode of transportation, had all been brought down, and were being surrounded by numerous dark Magi!

Chapter 211: To Return

In this situation, even though he was the leader of the defense squad, he had no other options but to flee.

Woosh!

A figure moved extremely quickly, with energy waves fluctuating about him.

The surrounding dark Magi had been stunned while he used a spell to launch himself away, and the leader took this opportunity to dash out of the circle, flickering every now and then.

At the very last second while he was attempting to escape, all he saw was his squad members being torn to pieces by colourful bursts of dark magic.

“Beta, Gogu... I’ll definitely avenge you!”

Gritting his teeth, a spell formation began to flicker, as if he was about to activate some spell.

Peng!

Suddenly, black hands extended from the shadows and grabbed his ankle!

“Thinking of running?”

A mass of green fog rapidly drew close, and he could vaguely see a huge figure.

The large figure raised his right arm, grabbing towards the team leader’s head!

“Damn it! I don’t care anymore!” The leader’s face turned red, and a necklace around his neck exploded, sending out immense magic undulations that formed a Knight’s lance technique, which thrust towards that huge figure!

Tssss! The dragon lance actually produced sound as it streaked across the sky, and even sparks were generated on it.

Ka-cha!

The dragon lance collided with the giant's large hands.

Under the disbelieving eyes of this team leader, the spell that he had spent a huge sum on to protect his life was slowly torn apart in the grip of those large hands.

The large hands didn't stop moving, and they grabbed ahold of the leader's head!

"Ah!" He screamed, a translucent crystal helm appearing on his head.

Crack!

The hands cracked the helm easily, and his skull was subsequently crushed, producing the ear-piercing sounds of breaking bones.

Thud! The now headless corpse fell to the ground, blood gushing out from its neck. Within ten seconds, the floor was dyed red.

"Have they been rescued?" The giant surrounded by fog asked.

"Reporting to my lord! They have all been rescued. Three official Magi, and thirteen acolytes! Not one more or less!" A dark Magus respectfully gave an account to the giant.

At the same time, beside the two other dead Toucan bodies, several Magi who had been captured by Leylin were rescued from their confinement.

"Listen up. I don't care who you used to be, but based on the dark Magi's rules and regulations, you are now our prisoners. Now, you have two options. One is to pay a ransom, and the other is to service us for thirty years for free! After thirty years, we will let you go..."

A dark Magus announced loudly in front of these prisoners.

Jocelyn and her uncle's faces turned ashen. For dark Magi like them, rather than being saved by these people, it was much better to be sent to the light Magi!

After all, the light Magi were more trustworthy and easier to talk to.

The moment they fell into the hands of other dark Magi organisations, it

became impossible to tell what their fates were going to be.

However, their shackles had not been undone, and while they had their magic and spiritual force, they were unable to activate and use it. They were akin to regular people and were unable to resist.

In front of the giant surrounded by green fog, a faint black gas condensed, forming a cloaked black figure.

“How is it? The numbers are right! What about my rewards?”

“Don’t worry, we won’t count you out!” The giant tossed a black pouch to him.

The figure caught it and looked at it closely before keeping it, looking satisfied.

“But what’s the point of catching them, and then offering us this information for us to save them? What are your plans?”

The giant asked.

The cloaked person pulled off his cloak, revealing a crimson, masked face. This was naturally Blood Rogue, Leylin’s disguise.

The organisation before him was the Thousand Meddling Hands, the dark Magi organisation that Leylin had joined not too long ago.

“It’s obviously so I’ll get two portions of rewards! One from the light Magi, and another from you!”

“After all, at the light Magi’s end, after these prisoners are handed over, it matters little to me whether they live or die. If they dare to dock my merit points because of this, I’ll inform the elders!”

Leylin grinned, pointing at the prisoners who were unwillingly signing contracts.

“There’s something you get out of this as well, isn’t there? I doubt you’ll let these Magi go so easily...”

“Haha...” The giant nodded in agreement, not looking the least bit sorry.

“Though we’re all dark Magi, they’re from small organisations or are

wandering Magi. For us, they are unpredictable elements. No matter how many of them die, nobody really cares.”

“Also, I want 40% of the Black Mandara Flower petals from this batch! That is a part of the rules!” Leylin spoke up.

Capturing dark Magi and getting Giant to act the part of a good-hearted Samaritan and save them was just a part of the plan. Leylin’s main objective was still to gather resources!

After all, how could Leylin not be the least bit interested after seeing such a huge amount of resources slip by under his watch?

“Of course! These are the Thousand Meddling Hands’ rules! For those who provide information and news, they can obtain 40% of profit.”

Giant nodded, “Do you want the flowers or magic crystals?”

Without waiting for Leylin to state what he wanted, he continued, “If you want ingredients, you can just take two boxes of the Black Mandara Flower petals right now! If you want magic crystals, we’ll need to sell them first. I can’t guarantee the price, but it definitely won’t be lower than 80% of the market price. In addition, I’ll be taking 10% of your total profits!”

“Magic crystals! I’m in urgent need of magic crystals now, and I want payment in advance. If you can pay me right now, you can take 10%!”

Leylin thought about it for a while. Black Mandara Flowers were basically useless to him right now, and the spell marks on them were a little troublesome as well. The ancient teleportation spell formation that he had discovered previously required a large amount of magic crystal essence to activate.

Hence, he desperately needed magic crystals, and he needed a lot of them to be of high quality!

“Oh?” Giant looked Leylin up and down, seeming to be surprised. “It looks like you’re pretty hard up now. Don’t worry, I’ll pay you in advance!”

All the resources were here and Giant wasn’t at a disadvantage, so he appeared to be very generous.

Giant passed a thick stack of magic crystal cards over to Leylin.

“The amount is right!” Leylin counted and then told Giant. “I will be leaving this place in approximately four days, but there might be some resistance. Hence, I’ll need your help!”

“No problem!” Giant chuckled.

“I’ll command the nearby Hell Cliff Army to look like they are going to attack. The people we have in the light Magi alliance will also help you.”

Leylin nodded slightly.

Actually, right after finding out he had been assigned to an area that was thoroughly surrounded by dark Magi, Leylin had quickly contacted Giant.

With the influence of his connections with Giant, the opposing dark Magi slowed their attacks.

Hence, those Leylin dealt with were mainly wandering dark Magi and acolytes. At most, there were some small organisations, but the real large powers did not appear at all.

After all, with Leylin guarding this area for over half a month and multiple dark Magi suddenly disappearing, would it not have attracted the attention of the larger Dark Magi organizations?

“Yeah! With the merit points you accumulated here, you’re sure to be promoted to a better and higher ranking position. At that time, don’t forget our agreement.”

Giant waved, and numerous dark Magi placed all the materials on a huge ground lizard and rapidly left the place.

At the same time, the green fog around Giant became increasingly dense.

“I understand!” Leylin guaranteed.

Leylin was mentally prepared.

Since he had received benefits from the dark Magi, he naturally had to pay them back.

“You’ll always be a dark Magus! I hope you won’t forget that...” Giant’s voice became softer and softer, and the green fog dispersed, leaving behind Leylin, who was in deep thought.

.....

“Magus Leylin, here is your order of transfer! Due to your exemplary performance in Zone 13, the alliance has given you a reward! You will be transferred to the alliance’s headquarters.”

A Magus in black uniform respectfully spoke to Leylin.

Though he was an official Magus, he did not dare put on airs.

This was no joke! Leylin was someone who could easily take care of a semi-converted elemental Magus! Would he dare offend such a person while he was just a newly advanced Magus?

“Sure! Wait a bit; we’ll go after I pack up.” Leylin smiled gently.

“Take your time! I’m not in a hurry!” The Magus quickly waved his arms.

Leylin nodded and called for Number 2 and Number 3, who had always stayed indoors and seldom went out, and had been hiding their power. They were to pack up the bedroom and convene the acolytes in the fortress to complete the last ceremony.

“I’m leaving!”

Before he left, Leylin turned around and gazed at the fort.

The surrounding Black Mandara Flowers had been completely harvested, leaving behind a bare field.

This was an area that was surrounded by dark Magi on three sides. If anything happened, this was the first place to be attacked.

“Now, I can only hope that the scroll and potions I left behind for George will be able to save his life!”

If he wanted to transfer George and Sheila out of this place, he would need to work from headquarters.

Leylin already had made his plans. If it was not troublesome, he would

help out, especially since they were good friends. If he could do anything to help, he would!

However, he now had to return to the headquarters before he could do anything of that nature.

Chapter 212: Merit Points

As for that girl Bessita, Leylin had long since thrown her to the back of his mind.

Although she had plotted against him before, she had already been punished for what she had done.

Now that their debts had been settled, whether this girl would end up alive or dead would depend on her luck. What did that have to do with Leylin himself?

In the Four Seasons Garden's entrance to the secret plane.

Buildings were densely crowded around the large platinum door that had been erected at the entrance to the secret plane.

There were two rows of Magi and acolytes queueing up near the entrance to the secret plane.

Before them was an exchange area set up for their merit points.

The Four Seasons Garden would take a portion of their loot as a commission, leaving the rest for the magicians to keep. However, while that may have been the case, they still preferred to exchange their items into merit points for resources that better fit them, or even magic crystals for their convenience.

All of these things could be exchanged for here.

Hence, Leylin estimated that excluding the loot that was secretly kept by the magicians, fifty to sixty percent of the resources from the secret plane were acquired by the Four Seasons Garden.

Weng!

At this moment, a bright red light appeared in front of the platinum door.

The beam of red light seemed to have an intelligence of its own, directly shining upon a Magus who seemed to be flustered.

"Take him away!"

A Magus guard came forward and waved his arm.

Two people wearing metal armour with runes embedded onto them held the poor fellow on both sides.

“Ah! No!”

The Magus called out in despair. At this moment, two fireballs the size of fists had already been tossed at the two armoured men.

Boom!

The flames swept the area, a heat wave continuously radiated outwards, causing the surroundings magicians to duck.

After the flame dissipated, the two armoured figure were still standing there unscratched. Even the surfaces of their armour had no blemishes.

“Attacking an enforcer, one more count to his crime! Take him away!”

The Magus guard’s expression was cold. With his command, the two armoured figures walked forward and suppressed the resisting Magus.

“What a pity! That Magus definitely tried to smuggle something out and even thought of deceiving them...”

A Magus standing beside Leylin lamented.

Leylin nodded his head. He knew that any resources from the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane would have a special aura which would disappear once it was brought to the outside world. Although that would not change any of the resources’ properties, the light Magi used it to make a sensory spell formation.

If any magicians were to smuggle resources out, this spell formation would immediately detect the aura of the magician.

Hence, the Four Seasons Garden and other light Magi organisations had devised a spell formation for that. Until now, not one had been able to successfully smuggle anything out.

Leylin knew of those spell formations, so in the previous operation, he did not wish to have the Black Mandara Flowers as his reward, but instead

wanted magic crystals.

“Welcome! Welcome, Magus Leylin!”

Passing through various buildings, Leylin came to the zone where the enforcers worked.

This time, Dolorin personally welcomed him.

His attitude was very good this time, and it looked as there was a hint of apology in his tone as well.

The previous time Leylin had come, Dolorin had assumed that Leylin was just a Magus who was discriminated against. He had been assigned to a place like Zone 13 and it seemed unlikely that he would live past a few days, quickly becoming a corpse in the wilderness. Hence, his attitude had been fearful, and he had acted like he was chasing away a nuisance that would bring about the plague.

Now, with Leylin’s various achievements in battle, he could not hold himself back.

Goodness! Even he was just a little stronger than a semi-converted elemental Magus. Leylin, however, had defeated almost a dozen Magi of this strength in half a month.

Recently, Leylin had been transferred to the headquarters at the entrance. Based on the order, it seemed he was being put in an important position.

In the transfer of personnel, there were higher-ups in the Four Seasons Garden who spoke highly of him.

This meant that Leylin wasn’t alone and had a backing! A very powerful backing!

Dolorin was now very regretful of his actions in the past and decided to welcome Leylin personally, hoping to improve relations with him.

“Vice team leader Dolorin! Long time no see!”

Leylin nodded slightly. He was already an adult and appear to be very enthusiastic, making Dolorin feel comfortable.

Though he was aware this was just an act, Dolorin was still surprised.

Magi were usually very antisocial people. In general, other than staying in laboratories to do research and occasionally teaching acolytes, they did not partake in activities to make connections.

Hence, Magi were very stiff in this sort of situation. Those like Leylin who were young, powerful, and socially competent were like a different species altogether!

Dolorin exclaimed that he was 'abnormal' in his heart, feeling it would be very difficult to deal with him.

To send Magi like him away, the price was something incomparable to regular Magi. He had been too harsh previously, and Dolorin was extremely unwilling to incur the wrath of a Magus who had a bright future ahead of himself.

These thoughts flashed in his head, but Dolorin's face was unchanging, a smile stretching across his face.

"Magus Leylin! Your merit points, this time, are extremely high! I have brought it personally to you!" Dolorin handed over a medal-like item to him.

Leylin reached for it.

The medal felt rather heavy given its size, which meant that had been made of some kind of alloy with a high density. In addition, the medal was ice cold to the touch.

At the front side of the medal was the Four Seasons Garden's insignia and at the back, it was a small screen.

On the screen, there was a record which read, "Leylin Farlier. Merit points: 563. Status: Locked!"

"This medal has recorded the aura of your spiritual force. Apart from you, nobody else can use it. If you want to use the merit points, you have to unlock it first..."

Dolorin explained the workings of the medal.

“Oh?” Upon hearing that, Leylin inserted some spiritual force into the medal.

Ka-chak! At the same time, the sound of a lock opening was heard, and the entire medal began to ripple with light.

This light was a thin layer of dark green. Though it was bright, it was not piercingly so, and it engulfed the medal within.

A short moment later, after the light dispersed, the words on the screen on the medal changed.

The name and merit points were the same as before, but on the column in the back, a red “Locked” had turned into a green “Unlocked.”

“Huh, it’s really convenient!” Leylin was somewhat surprised. In the Magus world, everyone’s spiritual force was unique, and could be used as an individual’s password. Hence, such a locking mechanism was very advanced. It was not inferior to even the retina scanning of his previous world, but it was even more convenient.

“Haha... Leylin, you haven’t been to our exchange centre yet huh? The items available are plentiful! You, who has that many merit points, make me a little envious!”

Dolorin said.

“Really? Then I must really go and have a look!” Leylin smiled. Dolorin naturally did not say that on an impulse; it seemed that he was trying to make amends for his hostility before, and it seemed that he meant to do it through the exchange centre.

After all, he had been in the organisation for many years. He knew that even if it was exchanging for resources in times of war, there were still some good items that could not be exchanged for merit points. There were bound to be requirements of rank and identity. Furthermore, there were different benefits offered based on who was redeeming the merit points.

Obviously, this vice leader of the Magus guards had a rank much higher than Leylin’s.

“Haha, of course! We’ll go now!”

Dolorin put a huge smile on his face, though in actuality, his heart was throbbing in pain! Even he, with a somewhat decent rank, had a limit to how much of the monthly allocation he could use! Once that limit was passed, he had to pay the full price in merit points! Looking at Leylin’s attitude, it looked like today he would have to apologise through a large compensation in merit points!

Since the words were already out, Dolorin had little choice but to bring Leylin to Four Seasons Garden’s merit exchange centre.

The exchange centre was a huge white building, which had a roof that pointed up in a conical fashion. The curve was beautiful, and surrounding it, there was a divine light from the defensive spell formation around it, which caused people to stop in their tracks to admire it.

With Dolorin as a guide, Leylin successfully entered this place without any obstructions.

After passing through a pure white passage, Dolorin brought Leylin to a hall that was similar to the trading centre in the Four Seasons Garden.

“The exchange of merit points issued by the Four Seasons Garden is allowed in the entire light Magi alliance. Here, you can see precious resources that are not limited to only our academy, such as high-level knowledge and some exotic items.”

Dolorin continued on, but Leylin was already dazzled by the large screen that was basically a menu.

Compared to the exchange centre of the Four Seasons Garden, the amount and rarity of the resources were obviously of a higher level.

The crystallised elemental energy particles that could only be purchased in limited amounts in the Nightless City were sold in bulk here. One could buy as much as they wanted!

There were also various precious potions that were useful to Magi in breaking through the spiritual force bottleneck. They were in plain view, causing many Magi to halt their steps.

“Here, all internal members who are vice team leaders or have higher positions have a special privilege, and are able to exchanges for items with 10% off the price!”

Dolorin waved, seeming to be very generous.

He went forward to a counter and knocked on the glass window. “Put everything he wants on my account, under my quota. Do you understand?”

Leylin followed behind, “Then I’m not going to hold back!”

Chapter 213: New Appointment

Dolorin had seen Leylin's merit point card and knew that Leylin only had five or six hundred points there.

Even if Leylin were to use them all up, it was still within his spending limit, which was why he was acting rich and very generous.

"I understand, my lord!"

All the personnel here seemed to know Dolorin. After receiving a blood-red crystal card from Dolorin, one of the employees smiled at Leylin, "My lord! As Lord Dolorin has used his authority, all items on the screen will be sold to you at a price of 10% off."

"Good!"

Leylin nodded. "Give me three portions of Fantasy Flowers!"

This type of flower was an essential ingredient in brewing ancient potions. Leylin had thought they were extinct on the south coast, but to his surprise, he had actually found it here!

"Alright! Each is 50 merit points!"

The worker took Leylin's card and swiped it on a card reader.

Beep! A clear sound came from the medal.

Immediately after the number on the screen behind changed from 563 to 428.

After confirming that the transaction had gone through, he quickly passed three crystals the size of a fist to Leylin. Within the crystal, the phantom of a little white flower could clearly be seen.

This little flower was very pretty with its translucent petals and roots. One could almost see the veins in the flower. At the bright yellow heart of the flower, several faint yellow stamens delicately revealed themselves.

Sealed within the crystal, it appeared to be floating just like in a dream.

"A Fantasy Flower!"

As he took the three crystals, Leylin murmured under his breath.

“The moment precious plant ingredients like these are exposed to the air, they will quickly dissipate. Hence, crystallisation has been used to preserve them. The way to undo this magic is to...”

The worker quickly informed him of the important procedures.

Leylin nodded and kept these words in mind. He carefully put the items away, pointed at a line of text on the screen, and said, “I’ve always admired Master Tywin’s potioneering diary. I want that.”

Dolorin’s gaze followed Leylin’s finger and fell upon the little words on the monitor. “Condition of Master Tywin’s potioneering diary: Half of it is lost. Fixed price of exchange: 100 Merit points.”

His face stiffened. From the looks of it, Leylin was going to use up all his merit points in one go.

However, he had come here with the mentality of sacrificing his wealth to avoid a calamity. Since he hadn’t really used many of his quota this month, even if Leylin used up all of his own points, he would still be able to afford it. At the most, he would be hard pressed for merit points this month, so he did not oppose Leylin.

Another 90 merit points were spent, and a diary with a black cover, which was not in the best condition, was passed to Leylin. He could not contain the happiness brimming about his face.

“I also want that ancient potion formula, as well as...”

Leylin openly pointed out the precious resources and high-level knowledge he wanted. There were some items that he had searched high and low for to no avail, and there was information that only light Magi academies were privy to, and could not be bought easily. Now, however, they had all appeared on the table of items he could exchange his merit points for.

Minutes later, the numbers on Leylin’s merit card had rapidly decreased until they had reached 0.

Even if they had been working there for a long time, it was rare for the people working here to see a customer spending so much in one go.

Dolorin could feel his heart aching. Leylin had pretty much used up his spending limit for that month, but at this point, he just gave a sigh of relief. “Haha... You’ve spent so much in one go. I’m afraid you might be breaking some sort of record here...”

At that instant, he was stunned.

All he saw was a bright smile on Leylin’s face as he produced an identification token, passing it to the person at the counter.

“Based on the rules I saw, if I don’t have any more merit points, I can use contribution points from the Four Seasons Garden to exchange for items at a ratio of 2:1, right?”

At that moment, Dolorin could feel that Leylin’s smile was akin to that of a devil’s smirk, and he felt that he had fallen into a bottomless abyss.

Moments later, Leylin emerged from the exchange centre with a look of satisfaction on his face. Dolorin, on the other hand, had an icy expression and bade farewell as quickly as possible.

The amount that Leylin had spent at the exchange centre had far surpassed his limit. He even had to pay a portion with his own money! It was no wonder that Dolorin did not look to be in a good mood.

However, he seemed to be considering something and hesitated to turn against Leylin.

“Yet another pitiful person constrained by rules and regulations!” Leylin glanced at the figure of Dolorin as he left.

The lifespans of official Magi were quite long. Hence, they were quite tolerant of those at the same level of power as them, and could coexist harmoniously.

Dolorin and Leylin were in the same organisation, so it was inevitable that they would meet every day.

He had done Leylin wrong when he had first met him, so even though

Leylin might have done a little too much, Dolorin still tolerated it.

However, in this situation, Dolorin had, from the victimiser, become the victim. If any conflicts happened with Leylin in the future, the public opinion would be biased against him.

If Leylin planned to continue in the light Magi camp, it would be unwise for him to abandon his reputation and lose his cool over such a small matter.

However, Leylin wasn't just a light Magus! The covert mission he had been given by the Thousand Meddling Hands had placed Leylin on the opposite side of the entire light Magi faction.

What was worse was that Leylin was unable to decline the demands of the dark Magi organisation, in which there was actually a powerful rank 2 Magus! He was linked to the entire dark Magi faction in every way possible.

Hence, Leylin estimated that even if he were able to free himself from the mission, it would be impossible for him to stay in the Four Seasons Garden.

There was a large possibility that when he met with Dolorin in the future, they would be enemies. If Leylin didn't take advantage of him now, he would just be an idiot.

As for Dolorin's position as the vice team leader of the defense squad, Leylin lamented upon it for a while and then placed it at the back of his mind.

He went to the heavily-guarded centre structure built by the Four Seasons Garden in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane. He waited to be granted entrance and receive a new mission.

In an office that had furniture shaped from plants, Leylin once again saw Reynold, the head of the Four Seasons Garden.

"Lord Reynold!" Leylin bowed, the spiritual force concealment method he had obtained from the old witch operating at full speed.

Behind Reynold's gold-rimmed glasses were a pair of pupils brimming with wisdom. They were fixated on Leylin, occasionally flashing with distrust.

"Magus Leylin! Your accomplishments at Zone 13 have been noted by us elders!"

After some time, Reynold did not notice anything suspicious from his observations, so he eventually began speaking in a light tone.

"We all agree that being a Magus guard is a total waste of your talent. You should be promoted to a more suitable role that can allow you to fully exhibit your abilities."

Leylin looked respectful, but he was inwardly rolling his eyes. What 'more suitable role'? Wasn't it just a random decision made by the elders?

However, Leylin obviously did not dare voice his opinions or show his thoughts on his face.

In contrast, a faint blush appeared on his face as he slightly ducked his head, "I thank the elders for their trust in me. I'll work hard at my new position."

"Very good!" Reynold nodded, signing the document that appointed Leylin to his new role.

"Leylin Farlier! I hereby appoint you the vice team leader of the hunting team, and you will be the direct subordinate of Caesar. Retrieve your mission from him!"

"The hunting team! Caesar!"

Leylin immediately thought of the three-eyed Magus. It seemed that his ties with Magus Caesar were not easily cut off.

"What's wrong? Do you have any objections?" Reynold stared at Leylin in interest as if trying to prod something out from his expression.

A faint undulation of spiritual force dithered about Leylin, trying to find out his true emotions.

Unfortunately, with the scanning of the A.I. Chip, this trace of spiritual

force was easily discovered.

“It’s nothing! I’m just a little surprised. After all, I am a mere Potion Master and a Magus guard. I know next to nothing about the inner workings of the hunting team...”

Leylin spoke indifferently, burying his feelings in the depths of his heart.

“That’s not a problem. Caesar will train you well!”

Reynold was full of smiles as if he was unaware of what had transpired between Caesar and Leylin.

“Alright! I’ll consult Lord Caesar!”

Leylin stayed silent for a while and then went forward to take his new document of appointment.

After Leylin left, Reynold tapped his cane on the floor.

Thud! Thud!

The dull knocking sounds resounded about the office, and immediately, the bookcase at the side of the office split open.

Countless vines spread out in two directions, revealing a pitch-black passageway.

A Magus wearing a black robe adorned with blood-red flowers emerged from the passage.

The most striking thing about this Magus was that he had three eyes!

“Caesar, that little guy is going to be under you! Look after him!”
Reynold told Caesar.

“Naturally!” Caesar nodded, breaking out in a bloodthirsty smirk.

“I am extremely interested in how he was able to increase his strength in such a short period of time!”

Caesar’s expression became serious. “It seems that the inheritance he obtained was anything but simple...”

Reynold shook his head.

“I examined him carefully just now. Leylin’s elemental essence conversion is at around 50%. Coupled with the record of him using his contribution points to exchange for crystallised elemental particles, I can only assume that he must have forcefully increased his strength. To be able to achieve such a battle record must mean that he obtained some powerful magic artifact or secret technique in the ruins...”

Chapter 214: Demonstration of Power

“Even so, it must be some amazing item. How about it? Do you want me to get it from him?”

Caesar still hadn't given up on his intentions

This time, however, Reynold was abnormally silent.

Caesar obviously knew that the reason why they had not done anything to Leylin as of yet was because they believed whatever Leylin had gained in the ruins wasn't anything precious. Hence, they could take their time, and did not have to do anything too unsightly. After all, they were light Magi! There had to be a certain level of trust between them and their peers!

Now, however, no matter how much Leylin tried to conceal his might, his battle achievements were a fact that could not be disregarded.

Also, the aura and energy waves that Leylin gave off was causing Reynold to become suspicious.

No matter what powerful magic artifact or technique Leylin may have obtained from the ruins, it could end up being an unpredictable factor that could change the tide of a battle.

Hence, Reynold was a little interested.

There was nothing that couldn't be done in this world. Not acting against Leylin previously was a matter of cost and benefit; it hadn't been worth it to provoke Leylin.

But now, the situation was different.

“You can give it a try, but don't go too far!” Reynold held onto a glazed porcelain cup, contentedly sipping a mouthful of a steaming hot liquid as he spoke.

“I understand!”

Caesar nodded, his figure disappearing into the darkness.

.....

At another place, Leylin was following the signs on the road, and eventually came to the area where the hunting team worked.

Once he arrived, he could see that there were very few acolytes and Magi. The stench of blood was thick in the air, causing everyone to feel pressure, as if there was a large rock pressed onto their hearts.

“This has... quite an uncomfortable atmosphere!”

Leylin looked up at the sky, which even seemed to be gloomy, and furrowed his brows.

At this area, one could occasionally see members of the hunting team.

These members all donned black Magus robes which were adorned with blood-red flowers. They intimidated everyone.

Leylin could also smell the thick scent of blood, and even the smell of humans.

It was evident that the dark Magi from before had been taken in by the hunting team.

“However, this building is really quite large. The main thing is, how would I know where Caesar is?”

Leylin held on to his document of appointment, and thought it over for a moment as he raised his eyebrows.

He randomly picked a few Magi from the hunting team and blocked their path.

“What do you want?” One of the Magi who he’d stopped was burly, and had a thick scar slashed across his forehead and middle of his face that made him look as if it had been split into half.

With such a terrible wound, his already fiendish face was made to look even more horrifying.

He was currently shooting out death glares at Leylin, elemental particle waves fluctuating around him.

“Very cautious of him! Also, he doesn’t seem to be holding back at all!”

Leylin commented inwardly. Shortly after, he put on a bright, gentle smile. “I’m a Magus that is new to the hunting team. May I know where Caesar —”

“Whenever we have someone new, it’s customary for team leader Caesar to bring them in himself. You’re a spy!”

To Leylin’s shock, just a word from him had caused the Magus to shout.

Leylin was alarmed. Immediately after, the surrounding Magi of the hunting team halted, ready to watch a good show. He instantly understood the situation.

“Making things difficult for the new guy? What a repulsive practice!”

The scarred Magus roared, and immediately, two long metal blades appeared in his hands. Each blade was around 2 metres long, with the sheen enough to strike fear into the hearts of some.

“Storm!”

The Magus roared a syllable, and in a split second, the blade in his left hand began to emit a fierce, fiery red, while on the right blade, threads of white mist converged to form a blade of ice!

The scorching heat on the left and the icy coldness on the right mixed together, forming a red and blue metal tornado that swept towards Leylin.

[Metal Elemental Magic: A tornado formed from sharp blades, which has been upgraded by incorporating fire and ice elemental runes. With the bonus from his elemental essence conversion, the power of this attack is at least 35 degrees!]

A light flashed in Leylin’s eyes, and he instantly estimated the origin and power of this spell.

“The average newly-advanced Magus would be killed in seconds if they were unfortunate enough to meet this sort of attack! This is just crazy!”

Instantly after, Leylin smiled, as if he had gotten something he had wanted. “Hehe... And here I was, afraid that I wouldn’t be able to establish my superiority!”

Though it wasn't good to attack the moment he came here, Leylin wasn't just any regular member, but the vice team leader of the hunting team! Also, his opponent had been the one to initiate the first move, so even if he were to complain to Reynold, Leylin was not afraid.

To be honest, it would make him even happier if this incident would cause him to lose his position.

All of these considerations flashed past in an instant, with only a second passing in real time. In this amount of time, the metal tornado attack of the scarred Magus was already in front of Leylin.

The violent wind pressure that accompanied the tornado turned into wind blades that had a strength comparable to regular weapons, instantly crumbling the walls on both sides of the passage.

Slash! Slash!

The wind blades that seemed to have materialised out of nowhere sliced against Leylin's body, but they were repelled by a layer of illusory, crimson armour.

"Not a bad attack, but unfortunately, you're dealing with me!"

Leylin looked calm, enthusiastically evaluating his opponent's attack.

With a black flash of light, instead of retreating, Leylin advanced and rushed forwards into metal tornado formed from flames and ice.

"Is he a lunatic?" Not only the surrounding Magi, but also the scarred Magus had this thought.

What they saw next was the most unforgettable sight in their life!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

When the huge metal blades that had the added danger of the flames and ice struck Leylin's body, immense noises resounded.

Leylin looked indifferent, wandering around through the metal tornado as if he were strolling around his garden.

The defense from the Fallen Star Pendant and Leylin's own support

spells rendered this level of attack useless.

Leylin's figure appeared as a black shadow as he entered the tornado, extending a pale, delicate finger and tapping gently!

Poof!

Like a balloon that had been punctured, the excessive might of the metal tornado broke down, and bits of blue ice and red embers flew all over the place, eventually disappearing in mid-air.

"This..." Scarface gaped, unable to utter a word.

This ice-fire metal tornado was his ultimate attack. With this one method, he had killed off countless official Magi, but now, this Magus had been able to move freely in the area of the metal tornado and even disable his most powerful attack with a gentle tap!

This had Scarface stunned, causing him to think that he was dreaming.

If Leylin had wanted to do everything himself, he would have used his powerful magic to go head on against that metal tornado. Although he would have been able to destroy the tornado in the end, the consumption would be immense, though the scene would be extravagant.

Hence, Leylin had chosen not to go through with that method, and instead, used the A.I. Chip to calculate the weak point of the spell. He then made use of his powerful defense and took care of the spell by heading into the area the spell affected.

This method was only viable when dealing with Magi weaker than Leylin. If the opponent's spell was too powerful, Leylin wouldn't want to risk entering the area of the magic like this.

Now, having used this method, he found that it might have been a little too effective.

Leylin looked at the dazed Magi and gave a gentle smile, his figure flashing as he came to the front of the scarred Magus.

"You..."

Scarface raised his right hand, black fur extending from the palm of his

hand and forming a red-eyed lion's head.

The lion head opened its mouth, preparing to shoot out some kind of energy attack.

Ka-cha!

Leylin struck quickly, like lightning, and before Scarface could react, a large hand made from shadows grabbed through his innate defensive spell and touched his right hand.

With the piercing sound of bones being crushed, the lion head on Scarface's right hand crumbled. His right hand was also bent in an awkward angle by the black hand.

The scarred Magus showed a hint of pain on his face, but that quickly changed to a fierce expression, as if he wanted to do everything he could to kill Leylin.

Scarface's remaining hand dipped into his bag and seemed to be touching some item.

"Oh? You still want to resist?"

Leylin furrowed his brows, and in front of him, a black shadow blade emerged and slashed at the Magus' left arm.

Thud!

The black blade noiselessly streaked across, and the Magus' left arm fell. Seconds later, fresh blood gushed out like a fountain.

"Ah!" Scarface's facial muscles contorted, making him look even more sinister and terrifying.

In the eyes of Leylin, however, he just seemed like a clown!

Leylin grabbed forward, black threads at the tips of his five fingers. These threads seemed to have their own intelligence, latching onto Scarface and pushing him to the ground, and then entering his nostrils, ears, mouth and other facial orifices.

Like a duck that had been clutched by the neck, the Magus' expression

changed to that of resignation, and the violent undulations surrounding him immediately dissipated.

“You...”

Scarface seemed like he had something to say, but Leylin didn't give him any chance to speak.

Unsympathetically, he raised his foot, clad with a leather boot, and stomped down on Scarface's chest.

Thud!

Scarface's chest sunk in, and his face turned deep red and then purple as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

Leylin stopped looking at him, and glanced at the surrounding Magi of the hunting team.

After defeating Scarface, the Magi from the hunting team that were present seemed to have achieved a mutual understanding, and encircled him.

“What's this? Are you all going to attack me?”

Chapter 215: The Hunting Team's Vice Team Leader

Leylin, stepped on the motionless, scarred Magus with his right foot, and coldly glanced at the other Magi present in the surroundings.

An ice-cold killing intent suddenly descended upon this location, shrouding it entirely.

All of the present magicians all felt their backs turning cold, as if some ancient beast had turned its cold eyes to stare at them.

"I am the hunting team's newly elected vice team leader—Leylin Farlier! This chap disrespected me just moments before, so I punished him a bit. Does anyone have any objections?"

Leylin swept a glance over them all and coldly asked.

To strike at a Magus was within his authority, but if he set about to bully him some more, it would be considered excessive.

Moreover, there were at least a dozen Magi from the hunting team present here, and they were all seasoned warriors. If Leylin wanted to dispatch of all of them, it would be troublesome.

After hearing Leylin's words, all the Magi there looked at each other in dismay. A Magus who seemed to have some status asked, "Since you are new here, would you be so kind as to release Wally?"

"No!" Leylin shook his head.

"This Magus dared to offend me, the vice team leader of the hunting team! Before he gets the punishment he deserves, I retain the authority to take handle this matter myself."

"Apparently, he is still not planning on stopping."

When all the present Magi heard Leylin's statement, they all simultaneously felt a chill in their hearts.

This Magus Leylin was clearly a ruthless person!

They were all in a deadlock.

Fortunately, a voice was heard from afar minutes later, solving their dilemma.

“Magus Leylin! What do you think you’re doing?”

A crimson fog condensed and transformed into an illusory image.

“Team leader Caesar!” The rest of the Magi in the hunting team bowed respectfully.

“Hm!” Caesar casually nodded and then proceeded to focus his attention on Leylin.

“Leylin. What happened here? I want you to give me an explanation!”

“Can’t you tell, Lord Caesar?”

Leylin exerted some force with his right foot, and Scarface, who was under it, immediately lost consciousness.

“Not only did this Magus offend me, he actually did it in this area and used dangerous spells! I only utilized my authority as the vice team leader and stopped him!”

Leylin continued rather mockingly, “If you don’t believe me, we can go and take a look at the spell monitor...”

Leylin could have been wrong, but after hearing Leylin’s explanation, the fog which had congealed into a human figure seemed to ripple, as if it was so angered by him that it dissipated.

“Good! Very good!”

Caesar nodded condescendingly and looked towards the Magi present.

“Wally offended a Magus of higher power than him and attempted to use spells in a public area. I sentence him to imprisonment for three months within the dark tower. Also, I will rescind his share of this year’s resources.”

“With this, are you satisfied, vice team leader Leylin?” Caesar asked, specifically stressing the last few words, and seeming to be implying

something.

“But of course! I am very satisfied!”

Smiling, Leylin withdrew his right foot, and facing Caesar, he humbly saluted.

This outcome was already better than he expected, and he was aware that he should know when to stop and not go too far in this situation.

“By the way! You, come with me!” Caesar pointed at Leylin.

In front of the admiration and fearful gazes of the hunting team, Leylin shrugged his shoulders and slowly exited the field. Only the scarred Magus Wally was left lying on the ground.

“He... He’s actually this strong!”

After Leylin left the field, the remaining Magi made some noises of incredulity.

“Though he is strong, he dared to contradict our team leader. Hehe....” Another Magus grinned, revelling in Leylin’s apparent misfortune.

Their team leader, Caesar, was no good person. Not only was he the team leader of their hunting team, he also had, in his arsenal, many methods of torture that could cause any official Magus to have a nervous breakdown.

“Leylin? Leylin! I remember him—he is Zone 13’s Leylin!”

At that moment, one of the Magi finally realized Leylin’s identity.

“The person who killed 9 dark Magi and captured 8 more? Right, that person seemed to be called Leylin and was sent here by headquarters. It can’t be that much of a coincidence, can it?”

A Magus of the hunting team with exceptionally oily skin joined in the conversation, a wry smile on his face.

Having attacked and even captured many enemy Magi, some of whom were semi converted Magi, Leylin had earned quite a reputation.

It was only now that these Magi knew who they had provoked.

“No wonder! If that was Leylin, he has the right to be so arrogant!”

An older middle-aged man looked in the direction that Leylin had left, a complex expression on his face. They were just ordinary members of the hunting team, with their average strength being that of a semi converted elemental Magus, and multiple Magi who had this level of power had been killed by Leylin. The one thing they collectively agreed on was that power determined one's status in the world.

At the beginning, they had not known who Leylin was and thought Leylin had been provoking them. On hindsight, they decided this was the actions of an expert who knew what he was doing.

.....

The Magi in the hunting team later saw Leylin once more at the banquet that was held the same evening.

This time, no one dared to be so stupid as to go forward and pick a fight with him.

Leylin sat on the right side of the long table, calmly sizing up all the Magi present at the banquet.

The number of people in the Hunting Team was less than those in the Potioneering Team, but still, there were about 50 people here. Each of these Magi emitted powerful energy waves; almost all of the Magi here had reached the threshold of semi elemental conversion. They could be called the cream of the crop amongst official Magi.

“Everybody!” At the head of the table, Caesar cleared his throat.

Immediately, there was complete and utter silence, and all the Magi stood up in deference, waiting for Caesar's command.

“Before we begin the feast, allow me to introduce to you to a new member!” Caesar's face was brimming with a radiant smile.

“This is Magus Leylin! He will join our hunting team and assume the post of vice team leader. Everyone, please welcome him!”

In the wake of Caesar's introduction, Leylin also got up and bowed

multiple times to address everyone.

“Vice team leader Leylin!”

Those Magi who have seen Leylin display his might did not dare to do anything else other than bowing so low that they almost achieved a perfect 90 degree angle.

“Hm! Very good!”

Caesar observed this scene, and nodded in satisfaction. He then continued, “All of you have experienced Magus Leylin’s strength. Therefore, I declare that vice team leader Leylin will hold the position of commander of Hunting Zone 3.”

“Wait a minute!” A voice sounded out, interrupting Caesar’s speech.

Caesar frowned, but upon seeing the source of this voice, his expression eased up, “Vice team leader Leylin, do you have an objections?”

“Of course I have one!” Leylin looked gloomy and seemed put out. “Hunting Zone 3? As per my knowledge, that seems to be under the Abyssal Bone Forest’s territory!”

Within the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, apart from areas dominated by either light or dark Magi organizations, there were places that armies had taken over, as well as some unoccupied areas.

These regions were located at the borders between the two factions of light and dark Magi. Some lay in desolate areas, while others were in accessible locations.

Since both sides were still unprepared, engaging with their main forces was a waste of resources. Hence, there had been an unspoken agreement that wandering Magi from either domain were allowed to battle there.

It didn’t matter what these places were previously named. These few areas, which were under the Four Season Garden’s control, all belonged to the Hunting team, and were further divided into different zones.

“Yes. The main enemy in Zone 3 is the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Do you have any problems with that?”

Suddenly, Caesar slapped his forehead and exclaimed, “Oh, I forgot! I read about your background—Magus Leylin, you were once an acolyte under the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, right? Is there something you forgot to tell us?”

“Hmph!” When joining the Four Seasons Garden, Leylin had been very open with his background. Besides reaping some gains from Dylan Garden, there wasn’t anything interesting about his past.

However, the feeling of having someone else having a hold on him caused him to be ill at ease.

“When I joined the Four Seasons Garden, I had clearly cut off my relationship with the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Does team leader still doubt my words?”

Leylin firmly replied.

“Very good!” Caesar clapped his hands smilingly.

“So, prove it to me! Bring me the head of a Magus from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and prove your loyalty to the Four Seasons Garden!”

“And if I say no?”

“In that case, pardon me, but I will arrest you on the grounds of going against orders!”

The smile on Caesar’s face turned cold, and his third eye on his forehead blinked open.

Buzz

A strong and bloodthirsty spiritual force that was like a fine interwoven web covered the entire room in a split second.

Leylin had a solemn expression as he used his right hand to lightly press on his temple.

Spiritual force that was filled with an unfathomable depth and darkness descended upon the field as well.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

Instantly, the air seemed like it was being torn apart, and the sounds of shattering were emitted.

Whoosh! An intense storm broke out in the room, and it felt like a tornado with a magnitude of ten had appeared out of nowhere, scattering the food on the dining tables all over the place.

“It’s a spiritual force tornado! Fall back!”

All the Magi present carried an expression of extreme terror as they retreated hastily.

“Your spiritual force has improved quite a bit, but it’s a shame that it still isn’t enough!”

Opposite Leylin, Caesar’s voice drifted over, carrying a hint of surprise. Following which, it turned cold. “I’ll let you experience what a genuine peak rank 1 Magus is like! Spiritual Eye!”

After he spoke, a faint image of a giant vertical eye appeared instantly behind Caesar.

The eye seemed demonic as the entire eye was completely black, and resembled the eye on Caesar’s forehead.

Rumble!

After the image of the vertical eye appeared, the might of the spiritual force tornado within the area amplified by a couple fold. It even resulted in minute black cracks in the void, where silvery light were being produced from there.

“Team leader Caesar’s prowess has reached the state where he can tear apart the void. If he progresses any further, he will reach the ability to materialise spiritual force, which is an ability that belongs to rank 2 Magi!”

Chapter 216: Hunting Zone 3

Seeing that Caesar's spiritual storm had almost torn space apart, the members of the hunting team that were present let out incredulous exclamations.

"I've long since heard about how 20 years ago Lord Caesar had reached the criteria to advance to rank 2. However, to pave the way and make his future advancement smoother, he chose to suppress his cultivation."

A female Magus with gauze that veiled her face mumbled, her eyes revealing adoration for Caesar, "As I thought, our team leader really is the strongest!"

"As expected, he's powerful!"

Leylin clenched his teeth and a large amount of spiritual force burst out from his sea of consciousness.

At the same time, a blue ray of light flashed in his eyes. "A.I. Chip, estimate the opponent's power!"

[Beep! Mission established. Beginning information gathering, constructing the simulation model.] The A.I. Chip's mechanical voice sounded.

Streams of data were rendered in front of Leylin's eyes, eventually coming to a conclusion.

[Estimation of target's spiritual force: 79.9. Opted elemental essence for conversion: Death element. Estimated elemental essence conversion: 85-90%.]

"This data means he's way past the entry requirements to advance to rank 2!"

The conditions for advancing from a rank 1 Magus to a rank 2 Magus were that one's spiritual force must be at least 80 and that their elemental essence conversion must be at least 80%.

However, many talented Magi did not want to advance right after

meeting the bare minimum requirements. They wanted to be in the best condition when they advanced, which would pave the way for their future.

Thus, they voluntarily suppressed their spiritual force, keeping it at the boundary while they increased their elemental essence conversion to at least 90%. Only then would they choose to advance.

The type of Rank 2 Magi who chose to advance this way had a battle power that far exceeded that of their peers. All their future advancements would be easier as well.

Caesar was a talented Magus with this train of thought! Based on strength alone, he was even above the leader of the Potioneering team, Decarte.

However, this was quite normal. Decarte was the leader of the Potioneering team, and instead of battle power, he was more focused on being knowledgeable in Potioneering.

Caesar, on the other hand, was in charge of the Four Seasons Garden's hunting team, and was thus definitely much stronger than his peers.

Leylin suddenly had a thought and immediately took a look at his stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual force: 58.9, Magic power: 58 (Magic power is in synchronisation with spiritual force). Elemental essence conversion: 70%. Status: Healthy]

"My spiritual force and elemental essence conversion are much too weak compared to his, and he isn't even using his full strength. If he did, my external spiritual force would have been destroyed long ago!"

Leylin gave a bitter laugh.

Of course, he hadn't gone all out. His elemental essence conversion and spiritual force had been suppressed by the technique obtained from the old witch, which made it more obvious to the others that he was not a match for this person.

After Caesar had used the Spiritual Eye Technique, Leylin's spiritual

force gradually weakened, causing the attack to come dangerously close to his body.

“Puh!”

Leylin suddenly paled and staggered three steps backwards.

With every step, a deep footprint was seen. White gas seemed to rise around him.

A hint of red appeared in Leylin’s eyes, but it quickly dissipated. He rubbed the blood at the corner of his mouth, and looked at Caesar with an unwillingness to lose.

“Team leader is really amazing!”

In this situation, victory was very obvious. The female Magus from before cheered loudly.

“Shut it!” Caesar glared, and the female Magus kept quiet, feeling wronged.

Pak pak! Caesar clapped his hands expressionlessly.

After that, two rows of acolytes in formal attire came to the hall.

Facing the mess in front of them, there was no sign of confusion or astonishment as they quickly restrained their emotions.

Multi-coloured rays from magic spells lit up the area, and the level 3 acolytes even used rank zero magic spells to speed up the rate of cleaning up.

Minutes later, the hall looked as good as new. Even the long table had been replaced, and all types of steaming and tempting delicacies were once more displayed on the table.

“So? What’s your answer, Magus Leylin?”

Caesar watched Leylin, who looked gloomy.

“Since that is what team leader wants, I have no choice but to obey!” Leylin answered unwillingly.

“Very good!”

Caesar nodded. “Well then, everyone! Let us raise our glasses to Leylin’s future contributions!”

Clink! Numerous wine glasses touched together, producing bright, pleasant sounds.

.....

“My lord! The area that we are in charge of, Hunting Zone 3, spans from the green highlands there to the region of dried up marshes. Here, the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane does not yield much, save for a type of Fantasy Spring Water, which is in high demand by Magi from both sides.”

An old Magus from the hunting team with traces of white hair brought Leylin around, patrolling the area.

The areas the hunting team were in charge of greatly differed from areas which had been officially conquered. They were at the border where many opposing powers were, and it was hardly strange to see enemy Magi around.

Thus, these few hunting areas were those where the most fights occurred within the secret plane.

Every day, there were many acolytes and even official Magi who died at the hands of the enemy, turning into mere merit points on the enemy’s part.

“Abyssal Bone Forest Academy’s acolytes? It’s really been a long time since I last saw them!”

Leylin was on high ground as he mumbled, gazing into the distance.

At that moment, his past life within Abyssal Bone Forest Academy along with each and every person there seemed to be fresh memories.

“Anyway, Professor Kroft is only a Potion Master, so it’s unlikely he will be sent to the battlefield. If he’s offended someone recently, that would be another story altogether.”

Leylin thought for a while— the only people he would meet on the battlefield were the official Magi from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

Out of the professors in the academy, he was only familiar with a few such as Dorotte and Kroft.

Even if he killed a few of the others, he wouldn't have a guilty conscience since he didn't know them anyway.

He even had hopes of running into some of the people from the Lilytell family! He clearly carried a grudge from being chased by them previously.

"Vice team leader! We have tarried here for more than 15 minutes! This is the boundary, and if we continue onwards, it's possible that the enemy's scouts will detect our energy waves and besiege us."

The patrolling magician who was guiding Leylin bowed and reminded him.

In Hunting Zone 3, the vice leader Leylin was deserving of the title of being a local tyrant.

After all, he had sufficient strength, was the highest ranking person that was from Four Seasons Garden, and he was the boss of these hunting team members. This was very terrifying.

If Leylin found any Magus an eyesore, it was entirely within his right to send them to their deaths by commanding them to enter the enemy's territory.

If they wanted to resist, Leylin could kill them on the basis of them defying orders.

Thus, now that their lives were in Leylin's hands, things such as pride and honour would be long forgotten.

Leylin, who had been sent here, subdued these few Magi with a few moves.

"Got it, Old Man!" Leylin replied, indifferently.

Most of the members of the hunting team had nicknames, and this Magus who was next to Leylin went by the nickname of 'Old Man'.

"Since the Lilytell family lost the competition to be the dean of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, it implies that their strength definitely does not

exceed that of a rank 2 Magus. Who knows, they might not even have a rank 2 Magus.”

Leylin quickly calculated the strength of the Lilytell Family.

“The grandfather of Bosain, whom I killed back then, was a powerful elder in the Lilytell Family at the peak of rank 1. He was probably a little weaker than Caesar and had about the same level of strength as Decarte.”

Leylin’s blue eyes flashed as he silently commanded, “A.I. Chip! Using the data gathered previously about Caesar, set up a simulation model and calculate my chances of winning in a fight against Caesar....”

[Beep! Mission established. Beginning data transfer, simulating a human form!]

The A.I. Chip faithfully pinged.

“Let’s go!” Leylin said to Old Man, who was standing at the side and heaved a sigh of relief as they quickly left the area.

As he moved, streams of data flickered in front of Leylin rapidly.

With Leylin’s mental power, it was very easy to multitask.

Moments later, the A.I. Chip came up with the results.

[Battle results: Number 2 and 3 will detonate themselves and die. Host and Caesar will die together. Probability: 89.7%.]

“What’s happening? Show me specific images!”

Leylin was shocked. The conditions that he set included what he would do if he went all out, setting up traps and adding in surprise attacks from Number 2 and 3, who were Branded Swordsmen. Even with these conditions, the outcome was not in his favour, which was entirely beyond his expectations.

Weng!

A faint blue screen, similar to a three dimensional display, appeared before Leylin’s eyes and showed an image.

In the scene, Leylin managed to launch a surprise attack when Caesar

was distracted, dealing great damage to his opponent. Caesar then turned back in surprise and anger, and fought Leylin.

Two figures flickered across the screen. What shocked Leylin was how strong Caesar's body was.

As they fought desperately for a few minutes, Caesar used his secret technique once again and healed most of his injuries.

At this moment, Leylin had also revealed his hidden cards: Number 2 and 3.

Number 2 and 3 roared and the brands on their bodies lit up, drowning Caesar in violent flames that shot out of their long swords.

The third eye on Caesar's forehead blinked open, exposing a black, defensive ray of light that completely suppressed the two Branded Swordsmen's attack.

From that eye, there also seemed to be a white light that had high offensive power against one's spirit.

At the end, Leylin could was left with no choice but to order Number 2 and Number 3 to detonate themselves, thereby destroying Caesar's third eye.

However, Caesar laughed crazily and split his body into two other figures. The three bodies stood at different areas, dragging Leylin with them as they exploded simultaneously.

Chapter 217: Black Smog

“Three spirits in one body! I never expected to see Magi still practicing this ancient technique, and actually succeed!”

Leylin’s expression showed his shock.

However, from the simulation from the A.I. Chip, Leylin now had a better idea of the level of his strength.

Currently, Leylin could be said to be at the peak of rank 1, where dealing with a semi-converted Magus was as easy as chopping vegetables.

However, if he were to compare himself to genius Magi—such as Caesar—who had already met the requirements to advance, he was still weaker.

Fortunately, Magi like Caesar weren’t common on the south coast.

His mortal enemy, the elder of the Lilytell family, was a little weaker than Caesar.

With Leylin’s current skills, if he were to fight him one on one without any tricks, he was not a match for Caesar.

This was to be expected though, since it had not been too long since Leylin had become an official Magus. Most Magi would still be new and inexperienced.

It was already an achievement for Leylin to possess this level of strength.

“As long as I endure for a while more and wait until my spiritual force and elemental essence conversion reach the ultimate degree that can be achieved by a rank 1 Magus. Then, with the added bonus from my Warlock bloodline, I will definitely be able to defeat and maybe even kill him...”

Leylin calculated inwardly, his eyes flashing with dark light.

This sight caused the old geezer beside him to tremble in trepidation.

Boom! Boom!

A severe seismic wave came from the ground.

A crack appeared, and a gush of tempting, fragrant and milky white

spring water burst out from the ground.

The mysterious aroma pervaded the air, and the plants in the area rapidly grew, seeming to have received some nourishment.

“Squeak squeak...” An earthen yellow mole scuttled from the grass and it opened its intelligent eyes wide, observing its surroundings. It dashed to the side of the water, and began to drink in huge gulps.

Boom! Boom!

Heavy footsteps sounded and gradually increased in number, announcing a horde of animals.

There were regular animals such as wolves, cheetahs, and pythons, but they were nothing compared to the number of strange, bizarre-looking creatures that were there as well.

There were some whose upper half was human, while the other half consisted of the legs of a spider, and there were others that were as huge as mountains. More than all of these creatures, however, the thing that caused the most fear was the black smog at the heart of the wave.

This black smog spanned across a large area, and there were multiple tendrils of smoke at the edges that kept extending outwards like tentacles. Regardless of whether they were tigers, cheetahs, half-spiders, or double-headed snakes, all animals that got close would be silently consumed by the smog.

After it passed through, all that was left was a pile of white bones.

Even though there was a temptingly strong life force energy radiating from the milky white spring water, the animals all made the same decision to stay far away from the black smog. There was a deliberate amount of space left between the animals and the black smog.

They came to the side of the spring and competed desperately to have the chance to drink the spring water. Just the black smog alone had taken up a lot of space.

The sounds of furious roaring and the tearing apart of meat sounded

out!

A bloody battle for the chance to drink the water started at the mouth of the spring.

Of course, these bizarre animals headed in the opposite direction of the black smog, and the mole from earlier had long since disappeared.

More than a few kilometers away, a group of Magi wearing the uniform of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy were advancing.

In the middle was a Magus who had countless plants that seemed like tentacles hanging all over his body and embedded straight into the ground.

All of a sudden, a Magus halted his footsteps and began to grin.

“What’s up, Blake? Did you discover anything?”

The leader of the team questioned the scouting Magus called Blake.

“Yes! In that direction, about 7 kilometers away, I sensed dense life force energy waves, and I could feel the energy veins pulsing through the earth... It was at the mouth of a newly-formed fantasy spring. There are also multiple weak traces of life, which probably belong to the animals nearby that were attracted there.”

Blake spoke with conviction, pointing in the direction of the spring.

“Good! Let’s get there, lest those darned bastards drink up the entire spring!”

The Magus leader was extremely pleased. Discovering the fantasy spring was a substantial contribution!

“But...” Blake was obviously hesitant. “Within all those traces of life, there seems to be a large fellow...”

“Who cares? Do you mean it can resist with 5 official Magi joining hands to attack?”

One of the members in the group immediately exclaimed, “Then what are we waiting for?”

The entire group immediately set off in the direction Blake had pointed out, and Blake could only smile wryly, knowing that nobody would listen to what he had to say. Also, just as his teammate had said, there was nothing that could stop them... Unless they met a Magus from the Four Seasons Garden!

Once the Magi group reached the mouth of the fantasy spring, they saw many animals scrambling for the spring water.

“No! How dare these lowly, wretched bastards drink my fantasy springwater!”

As he watched the water level drop, the leader was on the verge of going crazy. “This is a high-level lifeforce spring water that sells for over a hundred magic crystals per gallon! It’s also a necessary item when brewing potions. Quick! What are you still doing there? Kill all of these bastards!”

Two ice blades emitting coldness appeared in the Magi’s hands, his expression complicated as if he bore a grudge.

Though the spring would be saved like this, and would become a possession of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, only a small portion of contribution points would be given to him!

“Team leader, look at that!”

Blake dragged the leader by his clothes, pointing at the black smog.

“The devilish black smog! Shit! It being so large must mean that it’s already an adult!” The leader could feel a headache coming on.

The devilish black smog was a high energy being in the Magus world.

They were born without a form and were just made of black smog. They did not move quickly, but it was because of this that spells were less effective against them, and their defensive abilities were more impressive.

The most pressing issue was the fact that this devilish black smog had already matured.

It was a large possibility that a matured devilish black smog has awoken their ethereal skill. Even official Magi might have trouble killing or

chasing it away.

“Whatever! The good thing is that this type of devilish black smog has high defense, but relatively weak attacks, so the only thing to be careful of is to not let its tentacles touch you!”

The leader pointed at two members. “You two will follow me and release long range spells, and hopefully draw the devilish black smog away. The others will chase away the animals because every second they are still here means we lose thousands of magic crystals.”

The Magus leader seemed to be respected in the group, and his arrangements did make sense. Soon after, the Magi split up.

“Drilling Frost!”

“Fireball!”

“Globule of Secondary Energy!”

Spells at the energy levels of an official Magi were let out by the three Magi. Ice bolts, fireballs and multi-coloured balls of energy flew out towards the devilish black smog beside the spring.

The spells distorted the air as they streaked across the sky, leaving behind traces of energy waves.

“Wa... wa...”

The devilish black smog made sounds like that of a child crying as the black smog on its body dispersed. It then became more transparent.

The ice bolts, fireballs, and globules of secondary energy went through the black smog, but it did not cause any significant effect.

The entire body of the black smog became a little more transparent, yet it drank from the spring in huge gulps, as if nothing had happened.

“Physical attacks don’t work, which means this devilish black smog definitely has awakened its ethereal ability! Use vaporisation or area of effect attacks that are made up of pure energy!”

The leader was a veteran, and immediately analyzed the current growth

stage of the smog.

“Ice fog!”

He first produced a large amount of white fog, in which were ice shards and beads, which quickly moved in the direction of the devilish black smog.

“Support me!” The leader howled.

Immediately after, the two other group members got to work. One released a green hurricane that hastened the speed of the ice fog, while the other constantly set up defenses in front of the group.

With the help of the green tornado, the icy fog moved extremely quickly and immediately reached and stopped at the devilish black smog.”

Tss tss

The sound of cold water freezing was heard as the ice fog collided with the black smog. The black smog all around the area started moving even slower.

“Whoa!” The roars of the devilish black smog continuously sounded, this time, filled with pain.

“Chi chi!” The black smog churned and revealed two huge yellow pupils, staring directly in the leader’s direction.

“I’ve already made it angry, so be careful!” Upon seeing the smog’s reaction, he began to yell.

Chi chi! With the strange sounds from the smog, two large portions of black smog were vomited out like a bomb, and rushed towards the three Magi!

“Shield of Gaia!” The only member in charge of setting up defenses went forward, pressing his finger to the ground in front of her.

Rumble

A layer of large granite rock rose up from the ground, taking the shape of a shield and defending the Magi behind it.

The black smog bomb collided with the large granite shield, producing an explosive bang.

Pa pa!

The surroundings seemed to be a mess—rock and mud were splattered in all four directions, and a crater was also created at the epicenter of the collision.

Chapter 218: Black Fire

The few Magi were hiding behind the Shield of Gaia. Together with their innate defense spell, they were safe even from the few stray fragments of rock that struck them.

“Ji Ji!” Seeing that its attack didn’t have any effect, the strange-formed black smog finally shifted its attention away from the fantasy springwater. It extended numerous tendrils around the surroundings, which was slowly creeping towards the three Magi.

“Great! I’ll lure it away! All of you are to collect the fantasy springwater while it’s distracted!”

The team leader hollered.

After that, the three Magi constantly retreated while frequently casting spells, luring the strangely-formed black smog to gradually move away from its original spot.

The other two members of the team took the chance to quickly eradicate other life forms. When they reached the edge of the fantasy springwater, they were the only beings left.

Once Blake reached the mouth of the spring, he started to chant a mysterious incantation.

Rumble!

The milky white springwater started to bubble as he steadily chanted in front of the spring.

Bang! The large quantity of fantasy springwater was being absorbed in midair by Blake, just like a whale drinking water. As the water was being absorbed, it concentrated into a milky white gemstone-like object, finally landing in Blake’s hands.

“Hurry up! I won’t be able to hold back the strange-formed black smog for much longer!”

When the leader saw that Blake and another member were collecting

the springwater, he first let out a smile before turning to shock in the next instant.

After seeing that someone was collecting large amounts of the delicacy that it was going to consume, the black smog that was still pursuing the team leader let out a baby-like wail before turning back to charge towards the spring.

“Delay it to gain more time!” That team leader’s eyes were slightly red.

“Awooooo!”

A creature’s holler suddenly came from the sky while the few team members were occupied.

A chill arose in all of the Magi’s heart after hearing that sound. The strange-formed black smog also stopped its movement as it revealed its enormous yellow eyes, looking warily at the sky.

They saw an enormous Poison Wyvern. Its body was 30% larger than it should have been, with green scales covered it completely. The force behind every flap of its enormous wings was very powerful.

“This....This Poison Wyvern seems to be.....”

That team leader said in a daze.

“That’s right! That Poison Wyvern that is stronger than an official Magus is the symbol of that Magus! Leader, we’re really lucky this time!” A member of his group smiled wryly as he said that. A sliver of despair appeared on the team leader’s face.

“Hmm? A strangely-formed black smog? That’s right, I need its core.....”

An extremely youthful voice rang out from the Poison Wyvern’s back, and following that statement, a strong magic undulation descended on the entire area.

The Magi below instantly felt as though an enormous wave was crashing over them. That power was so powerful that they couldn’t resist.

The strange-formed black smog that was still dealing with three Magi immediately stopped resisting against them. The powerful aura of its body

increased by half and its form shrunk. It looked more substantial and both of its yellow eyes were wide as it stared fixedly at its new opponent. Low snarls could be heard from it.

Following that person's voice, a black hand, which burned with violent black flames, struck from the back of the Poison Wyvern towards that strange-formed black smog.

The areas that the black hand passed through briefly fluctuated.

The hand was not yet done, and the stones and grass were blown away roughly, revealing a barren land.

The black smog lay right in the middle of this area.

"Chi chi!" The smog faced the heavens and bellowed, constantly spewing out black bullets. These bombs that were formed from condensed black fog seemed to grow eyes and sailed through the air in a strange line, accurately intercepting the large hand that burned with black flames.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The black bullets exploded in front of the large hand, but it was clearly ineffective. They were burnt up by the flames, leaving not even a trace on the palm of the hand.

Whoosh!

The attack from the black smog was unable to slow down the fiery large hand. Under the astonished gazes of the surrounding members, the black flaming hand grabbed onto the body of the black smog.

"Waah waah!"

The raging black flames covered the body of the black smog in an instant, the smog gradually becoming fainter under the flames. It eventually burnt into white steam and completely evaporated.

The black smog's figure became increasingly smaller, and within a few seconds, it was half its original size. It cried out painfully, its tentacles involuntarily twitching and even rolling on the ground, but this did nothing to deter the large hand.

The flames persisted and continued to burn away the strange body of the black smog.

Another ten minutes passed, and the entire black smog was completely destroyed by the black flames, leaving behind something that looked like a black pearl.

This black pearl was completely smooth, containing what seemed to be a miniature version of the black smog, constantly changing its shape.

Thud! Thud!

The Poison Wyvern in the air had also descended by then, a youthful male Magus jumping off its back. He approached the area where the flames had burnt, retrieving the black pearl.

“A large Poison Wyvern and black flames! There is no mistake, he must be Four Seasons Garden’s ‘Blackfire’ Leylin!”

This team leader smiled wryly. Earlier he had sensed an immense and terrifying spiritual force with a large amount dark elemental energy. It had reached the battlefield and had been observing their every move.

Under the surveillance of this spiritual force, just moving required more energy than usual; it was naturally impossible to even think about escaping or fighting back.

“Blackfire Leylin? Isn’t that the one from our academy who...”

A member nearby held his tongue, his expression revealing his shock.

As Magi of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, they definitely knew the existence of a potioneering genius who had been involved in a conflict with the Lilytell family and had been subsequently expelled.

Though it was said that he had already advanced to be an official Magus, hearing rumours and actually seeing it for themselves was a completely different experience.

In addition, the strength that Leylin exhibited far exceeded the might that a newly-advanced Magus would normally have. Even old men like them could only sigh in longing at his power.

“It’s such a large area, but we actually managed to bump into him. What luck we have...”

This Magus team leader shook his hand and quickly stood in front of his teammates. “Go! I’ll stall for time!”

“Leader!” “Team leader!”

Several members of the team were reluctant to obey.

Blake disregarded his words and went forward, standing shoulder-to-shoulder by the team leader. “If you’re going to stay behind, then I should be the one doing so. I’m the scout in this group, and it was my fault that we did not discover the enemy...”

However, with Blake’s strength, discovering Leylin was basically impossible. Furthermore, Blake’s detection skills only applied to enemies on the ground. For those who were in the air, it was completely useless.

“Leader!” The other members seemed to be on good terms with their team leader and hesitated, with another staying behind as well.

The other two glanced at each other, erupting with wind elemental particles around them and moving over ten metres in the blink of an eye. They wildly charged forward, seemingly uncaring of their lives.

“Why does it feel like I’m the huge villain here?” Opposite them, Leylin stroked his chin and had the sudden urge to laugh.

It was quite unexpected that Magi from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy could be so united in a life or death situation like this.

However, even the dark Magi had a few friends they were willing to risk their lives for. Had the team members not trusted each other, then their small team would have perished on its first mission and would not have lasted till this point.

“Magi from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?”

Upon seeing their strangely familiar black robes, he turned somewhat emotional. Just a few years ago he had been a lowly acolyte who had to be extremely respectful the moment he saw robes that a Magus wore.

But now, whether these official Magi lived or died was in Leylin's hands.

It felt quite strange to face the reversal like this.

"Do you want to stop resisting, or should I make my move?" Leylin asked indifferently.

The moment those words were uttered, the situation could no longer be changed.

"We're going to go all out! Go!" The team leader showed his firm stance as he yelled.

Ka-cha! There were suddenly two more long ice blades in his hands mercilessly slashing towards Leylin!

Tentacles also formed under Blake's feet, squirming and extending till they shaped into a large hammer.

The hammer was lifted high and ruthlessly slammed towards Leylin.

The last Magus used a few support spells on his comrades and set up a large rock shield in front of them.

"Quite a compatible combination! It's a pity that it's useless!"

Leylin evaluated, seeming to be making no move. From his figure, innumerable shadow tentacles suddenly emerged.

These shadow feelers seemed to be like plant roots, spreading all over in large quantities till they practically blotted the sky.

The world suddenly became dark and gloomy.

"Shadow Domain!"

Leylin whispered, and his body became a black figure, dissipating into the air.

Boom! Boom!

The ice blades and huge hammer struck the floor, leaving behind two huge holes with traces of green smoke emitting around them.

"Take care of our defense!" The team leader roared.

“It’s too late! Within the shadows, I am everywhere!”

Black light flashed, and Leylin’s figure appeared behind the rock shield.

Chapter 219: Total Captivity

As he watched the enemy Magus in charge of defense, Leylin raised his right hand and tapped.

Weng!

Countless black figures emerged from the shadows, overlapping with each other as they continuously multiplied. With the accumulation of the shadows, a small light appeared in front of his finger that formed a small-scale vortex that seemed to be able to suck one's spirit in.

In front of Leylin, a layer of greenish-gray iron covering instantly appeared on that Magus' skin.

This was 'Iron Skin', an innate earth element solidification spell that rank 1 Magi liked to use.

Ripple!

Leylin's finger seemed to be moving extremely slowly, though in actuality it was approaching very quickly. As he tapped the Magus' Iron Skin, the sound of rippling water could be heard.

In front of Leylin's finger, the Magus' Iron Skin peeled off bit by bit like snakeskin. A look of incredulity appeared on the Magus' face, and after having been quickly tapped on the forehead by Leylin, his eyes rolled back and he fainted.

"Laura?!" The team leader was furious.

Shortly afterwards, a scroll appeared in his hands and Blake, who was to one side of the leader, produced a small shield the size of a palm.

Immense energy waves were emitted from these two items, indicating that they were ready to be activated at any moment.

"You two can attack me together!"

Facing this sight, Leylin simply smiled and clawed with both hands.

Tssss!

Black streams of air were emitted from his fingers, and each of the ten black streams was like little snakes as they surrounded these two Magi.

Where the two Magi had previously stood, two black cocoons could now be seen. From these cocoons, the occasional snake-like hisses could be heard.

Seconds later, the black mist dissipated, leaving behind two Magi that had fainted on the floor.

There was a layer of vague imprints that were like black snakes wandering back and forth across their faces.

Pak!

After taking care of these three Magi, Leylin willed the shadow vines obstructing the sky to withdraw back into his shadow.

“I feel it now! With the constant stimulation from my bloodline, my control over the darkness is becoming increasingly stronger!”

The darkness in Leylin’s pupils became deeper, and he appeared to be intoxicated while deep in thought as he mumbled to himself.

After handling these three Magi prisoners, Leylin waited another few minutes.

Zoom!

Two unidentifiable human figures were flying across the ground, dashing towards Leylin rapidly. Even Leylin was only able to see after-images.

Thud!

The two black figures were carrying something on their shoulders and came to Leylin, throwing the things on their backs onto the floor.

“Master!” Number 2 and Number 3 knelt on one leg, greeting him.

“In accordance with your orders, we have caught all of them. None have escaped!”

The two Magi that had escaped just now were currently lying on the

ground.

Several injuries that were so deep that bone could be seen on the bodies of the Magi. They were extremely pale, which was a result of extreme blood loss. It was not difficult to imagine that these wounds were the result of a fierce battle.

“Good! You did well!” Leylin expressed his approval towards his subordinates.

These two Magi were newly advanced, and thus the weakest amongst the Magi. Numbers 2 and 3 were able to defeat them because of the immense power of Branded Swordsmen, a subdivision of the ancient Magi.

Perhaps, this was the obvious result of the large consumption of potential and vitality from Number 2 and Number 3.

To obtain power, Leylin had no choice but to speed things up and carry out many taboo methods on their bodies. This allowed them to break through their limits and become Branded Swordsmen in a short period of time.

Because of this, their vitality was being consumed at a faster rate. Based on the A.I. Chip’s calculations, they only had two more months to live.

“Bring them along. Let’s go!” Leylin heaved a sigh of relief as he pointed at the five Abyssal Bone Forest Academy Magi lying on the ground.

He still had many questions that could only be answered by these people.

In addition, it was no simple task to obtain official Magi slaves and guinea pigs.

Leylin still had many ideas and conjectures regarding Branded Swordsmen, and he needed to test it on these Magi.

After all, in ancient times, Branded Swordsmen were a subdivision of the official Magi, not Knights!

Hence, with Grand Knights as guinea pigs, Leylin still felt he was lacking something even with the help of the A.I. Chip. In the end, all he produced

was Numbers 2 and 3, who were incomplete versions of the Branded Swordsman.

This could be due to their lack of the tremendous spiritual force that Magi possessed, which resulted in Number 2 and 3's difficulty in manipulating the elemental particles in the air. It was several times more difficult than predicted by the A.I. Chip.

Leylin considered some scenarios and then brought the five Magi to a secure hidden area. After interrogating them, he immediately began to verify his doubts regarding Branded Swordsmen.

Leylin only dared to be so unscrupulous because this was a time of war and he was doing this to those from the enemy camp.

If not, using official Magi as guinea pigs would most certainly result in society's displeasure, and he would receive negative repercussions.

.....

On a high ground filled with white flowers.

In the thick fog, a large castle that looked like an upside-down cone existed.

This castle only had one point that was connected to the ground, and yet it was able to support the main body of the castle on top. Looking at it gave one the misconception that the world was upside down.

It seemed like this castle was normally upright, but someone had turned it upside down.

In the walkway paved with white marble, an old woman with a head of silver hair was carrying an oil lamp, ambling slowly.

Ka-cha! A metal door with blue electric currents sparking on the surface was pushed forward.

Tssss! Large amounts of icy white gas began to condense as they came into contact with the outside. It filled the walkway behind her with a layer of white frost.

The old lady walked in the house, which was practically a world of ice

and snow. It was below 0 degrees, and if one were a regular human, it would be impossible for them to stay here for more than a few seconds.

In the heart of the house, tendrils of white vapour constantly emanated from two ice coffins.

Through the translucent coffins, one could see a burly man in one, and a girl lying quietly in the other.

Both of them had their eyes tightly shut, a look of pain and signs of struggle flashing across their faces occasionally. Each had a rune with a snake wriggling about on their neck and right hand.

“Sorry for the trouble, Doctor Hyder!”

The old woman got out of the way, and a Magus with a head of silver hair came from behind her.

This Magus looked to be very old, with wrinkle after wrinkle heaping on his face. However, his eyes were bright and he had a benevolent smile on his face.

“Curses are a very troublesome part of spells. They involve many strange and cruel things and Magi in the south coast who know this type of magic are scarce. I can’t guarantee anything other than that I’ll try my best.”

Hyder, a Magus specializing in healing, did not immediately approach the patients, but first spoke to the old woman.

“You are an expert in this field. If you are unable to solve this problem, then I don’t even know who I should approach.”

She gave a bitter laugh.

“Alright! I’ll give it my all!” Hyder nodded. Usually, he definitely would not take on such jobs. Not only were they dangerous, it was easy to offend the Magus who had produced the curse.

However, he was on good terms with this family and owed them a few favours. Hence, he had no choice but to come.

Hyder went forward and looked the ice coffins up and down, and then nodded.

“When unable to treat a condition, freezing the victim is a very good method!”

He shifted his focus past the layer of ice, and upon seeing the curse runes within, he gasped.

Hyder’s expression immediately became serious, and a stifling atmosphere pervaded the air.

He produced several bizarre items from his clothes, which seemed to be useful in testing the nature and effects of the curse.

The old woman behind him stood behind him in bated breath, not daring to even speak a word.

A good while later, Hyder put down the stethoscope in his hands and rubbed off the cold sweat on his forehead.

“How is it?” She immediately inquired.

“It’s troublesome! No, it’s extremely troublesome!” Hyder looked abnormally solemn.

“From this rune I felt an ancient aura. It’s possible that this was a curse passed on from ancient times, and there are basically no other models of it to be found on the south coast. Furthermore, this technique is very complicated and without large amounts of experimentation, trying to treat it at this point will only result in the curse going berserk in the body. The end result is something none of us want to see...”

Now, after seeing how demanding and crafty this curse was, even Hyder regretted his decision. Was it worth it to repay a favour and, in turn, offend a terrifying dark Magus?

“An ancient curse... hss...” the old lady gasped.

As a family with a long history, she naturally understood the difficulty in dealing with this curse.

Forcefully breaking the curse would only result in death, unless the Magus who had set the curse decided to stop pursuing the matter.

“Are there no other methods?” With a hopeful glint in her eyes, she

stared at Hyder.

“It would be best to make a trade with the Magus who set the curse. Other than that, I would need large amounts of guinea pigs and practical tests to find a way and break the curse.”

Hyder slanted his head and thought for a moment, before speaking.

“Also, there is a time limit for the curse. Based on my test, there is at most one more month before it will completely erupt!” Hyder dropped another bomb on her.

Upon hearing this, the old lady trembled and then she breathed in deeply, a resolute look on her face.

“It doesn’t matter what happens to Manla, but nothing can happen to Jenna! That is my final threshold!”

Chapter 220: Acolyte

“Huh?”

Hyder looked at the old woman, a little confused.

“What I’m trying to say is... Rather than guinea pigs, the results would be better if you could do tests on a Magus who has also been cursed. Am I wrong?” The old woman looked cold and indifferent as if she was a block of ice.

“Theoretically speaking, that’s true, and it would be even better if it’s an official Magus...” Hyder unconsciously muttered to himself, and suddenly came to a realisation. “You’re thinking of using Manla?”

Hyder could not hide his shock at her words. Though this lady’s family had a long history, official Magi were few and far between. There were not more than 5 of them; this act would sacrifice a fifth of their power!

“If that’s what fate dictates, then so be it!” The old woman looked to be in a trance as she gazed at Jenna, who was in a deep sleep within the ice coffin. “She is the seer and nothing can be allowed to happen to her!”

“The seer? No wonder!” Hyder repeated after her. He had also heard about the family’s strange ability to foresee the future.

“Kill him! The traitor that goes against fate!” At this moment, Jenna suddenly opened her eyes, revealing the whites of her eyes as she spoke expressionlessly.

“Those who offend the seer will have their spirits cast into a bottomless hellhole with black flames, and receive endless torture. Hehehe...” All of a sudden, Jenna’s expression changed, and she began to laugh crazily.

Next, the whites of her eyes disappeared, and a look of suffering appeared. She looked to be on the verge of tearing as she stared in the direction of the old woman. “Grandmother...”

This expression quickly dissipated, and the colour of her face changed. Several images appeared, forming different faces.

“Hsss...” As if stimulated, the black snake runes on her pale neck began to extend.

Lines of black veins instantly crawled all over Jenna’s face.

“This is bad!” Hyder immediately went forward, pouring a bottle of blue liquid into her mouth.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha! On the surface of Jenna’s body, countless shards of blue ice appeared, causing her body to freeze.

“Sleep!” Hyder spoke slowly; the expression in his eyes was hard to make out and was somewhat intimidating.

Blue threads from his fingers went deep into her body.

After a long period of time, Jenna finally went back to sleep, and the snake curse returned to its original shape, though it looked a little bigger than before.

“A fractured spirit! Or no, is this the fusion of spirits? How pitiful...”

After all that work, Hyder began to look at Jenna with pity in his eyes.

As a healing Magus who was friendly with this family, he knew about the divination ability they possessed.

This strange ability came from an incomplete high-grade meditation technique.

All who cultivated in this meditation technique would automatically gain the ability to receive premonitions of the future to some extent. As they progressed and cultivated further, they would even be able to observe fragments of the future.

Unfortunately, this incomplete high-grade meditation technique had stringent limitations, and only the female members of Jenna’s family were able to cultivate in it.

In addition, within each generation, only one member would succeed in it and gain the power to predict the future.

These people were called the ‘seers’!

If that was all, the situation would be manageable. However, with the passing down of this technique, a more scary phenomenon appeared.

The spirits of the seer through the years were somehow preserved, and they would possess the body of the current seer.

Hence, with the accumulation of more and more spirits, the seer's mind would become mentally unstable, and she would become schizophrenic.

Hyder had previously accepted the task of producing potions that could stabilise the mental state or spirit of the seer.

The current Jenna looked like a single person, but within her body resided the spirits of the past seer.

With the increase of spirits within her body, Jenna's mental health and rationality became frail, and there came a point where she did not even know what she was doing. The spirits of the seers from previous generations would even occasionally take over her body.

As a result, she would do some strange things that were unthinkable to the regular person.

Hyder was very much aware that after gaining this ability, Jenna's family had become a little neurotic.

Not only did they say that pretty much everything they did was in the name of the protector, and were unwilling to accept any criticism, but they were also used to saying nonsense like "following what fate had in store for them."

As this continued to happen, several families that had previously been on good terms with them distanced themselves.

After all, Magi were a bunch of rational and free people. Nobody wanted to be with someone who would constantly criticise their actions.

What had once been a large clan inevitably fell. Just looking for some external help was difficult, and they could only find a sole healing Magus—Hyder.

"How is she?" The old woman inquired worriedly, though she pointedly

ignored Manla at the side.

Hyder sighed, feeling pity for Manla.

“Though I was able to temporarily suppress the outbreak of the curse, Miss Jenna’s unstable mental condition means that the outbreak can recur at any time!”

Hyder gave the old woman a long, meaningful look. “Also, with that outbreak just now, the date which the curse on her body will completely erupt has been brought closer.”

.....

Leylin knew nothing about what was happening.

It was just the opposite. He was surprised that he hadn’t heard anything about Jenna’s family trying to find him through other organisations.

From the looks of it, Jenna’s speech about being on good terms with large white Magi organisations was just a ploy to scare him in a life or death situation.

Though Leylin had made some preparations, the feeling of having made preparations but there being no signs of attacks directed at him left him feeling a little dejected.

“But the time limit that I set is approaching! They will definitely look for me soon!”

The corners of Leylin’s mouth curved into a cold smile.

His curse came from the rank 4 Morning Star Magus, the great Magus Serholm. With the A.I. Chip’s simulation and encryption methods, it was basically impossible for anyone else in the entire south coast to undo it.

To save these two people, the family supporting Jenna would have to beg him for help!

Leylin was also quite interested in Jenna’s divination ability and desired to know more about it.

.....

Whoosh...

The sounds of fierce wind whistled past Leylin's ears.

*Awooooo!" The Venom Wyvern, Hawke, made sounds of excitement as it soared through the air.

The gale that met them ruffled Leylin's clothes, producing the sounds of fabric flapping. Leylin closed his eyes in enjoyment, looking content.

"The Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the Lilytell Family! It's time to sever things off completely!"

Thinking back to the information he had gained from those few Magi, a merciless glint appeared in Leylin's eyes.

He was quite knowledgeable in the field of spirits and had learned about methods in torturing spirits. Leylin even had the ability to use certain combinations of potions to search the souls of newly-advanced Magi.

Under the endless torture methods that Leylin had employed, the five Magi that Leylin had taken prisoner quickly relinquished all that they knew.

From their very lips, Leylin was able to obtain a very detailed distribution chart of the Abyssal Bone Forest's forces in Hunting Zone 3.

What aroused Leylin's interest was a stronghold that was headed by the Lilytell family!

In the beginning, in order to obtain the Kemoyin's Pupil technique, he had killed off Bosain. This had offended an elder of the Lilytell family, so Leylin had no choice but escape from the academy. Scenes of his past flashed by Leylin.

This was a dispute that had come about in one's pursuit of power. There was no right or wrong, but since he had garnered animosity from them, Leylin was prepared to eliminate this liability!

Though Giant had promised to mediate, one could only trust himself! The best enemy was a dead one!

That elder from the Lilytell family who specialized in metal had reached

the apex of a rank 1 Magus. If Leylin were to make his move now, it would be a bit difficult.

However, he would be able to cut off his opponent's wings and weaken his family!

It would be even better if that elder himself was around. Leylin was certain that he would be able to withdraw safely, and that he would be able to collect large amounts of data and command the A.I. Chip to simulate the best way to kill him!

The Venom Wyvern soared through the air at a frightening speed, causing animals and acolytes alike to only see a black blur.

"We've entered enemy territory. This is where most of the enemy Magus activity is."

Leylin suddenly having an idea. He produced large amounts of grey clouds from within his sleeves, concealing both him and the Venom Wyvern.

With the spread of the grey clouds, the large figure of the Venom Wyvern actually become the same colour as the blue sky. Even the immense life and heat waves from it vanished.

.....

On a valley floor, an obese-looking acolyte in grey robes was being chased by a group of wild wolves.

"Faster! Just a little bit faster, and I'll reach one of the strongholds of the academy!"

The acolyte ran, cheering herself on while tightly grasping a unique red ore.

"Awooooo!" A wild wolf howled, surrounding itself with a ring of green particles. Its speed immediately increased fivefold, turning into a black line as it headed straight for the acolyte.

With green light shooting from its eyes, the wolf opened its mouth to reveal sharp teeth that reeked of blood, and snapped at the acolyte's hand.

“Bite it!” This acolyte resolutely surrendered the left hand that the wolf was aiming for.

Ka-cha! The pathetic defense of the acolyte’s robes was pierced through.

Immediately after, the wolf fiercely bit onto the acolyte’s left arm, and a muffled sound similar to something biting on leather was heard.

“Hah!” The acolyte swung her left arm.

The wild wolf was swung away as she exerted her enormous strength.

At the next moment, however, multiple wild wolves caught up to her.

Chapter 221: Saving A Damsel In Distress

Seeing herself surrounded by wild wolves, the acolyte made a decision.

She fiercely swung her right arm backwards.

Ka-cha! Her palm split open, revealing multiple white teeth, and looked like another mouth

Thump! Thump! Thump!

From the mouth on her right arm, several lumps of putrid green liquid shot out.

“Awoooooo...”

The liquid balls hit the bodies of the wild wolves, producing large amounts of white smoke. They corroded at a very fast pace, revealing the striking red flesh and white bones of the wild wolves.

The wolves' attack became sluggish, and making use of this chance, the acolyte quickly recited a few incantations and added a spell that would increase her speed.

Eventually, before the group of wolves caught up to her, this acolyte quickly burst into a layer of mist.

After entering the mist, she heaved a huge sigh of relief.

She looked around her.

Around her were several official Magi and acolytes in the robes unique to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy moving about.

“Stop there, acolyte! The password and your token!”

Countless black owls surrounded the acolyte, creating a huge human figure that spoke.

“Supreme Abyssal Bones!” The acolyte muttered lowly, and then produced a black stamp, placing it before the giant.

“Correct!” The giant spoke, dispersing into many owls that flew away. This acolyte then took out a map and compared it with her surroundings.

“I never thought I would go so far inside. This is a danger zone marked with three bones. Without the strength of an official Magus, it’s best to leave as soon as possible.”

“Oh my! Such a disgusting smell! Let me guess who’s here.”

At this point, the acolyte was stopped by a few acolytes who were preparing to leave.

The acolyte in charge was wearing robes that indicated his status and made with exquisite materials. There was a silver necklace around his neck that gave off immense energy waves, which obviously made it a magic artifact.

“Is there even the need to guess? This smell is just as stinky as the sewers. Besides our swine Nyssa, who else could it be?”

The other acolytes immediately burst into laughter.

The acolyte who had spoken walked in front of her and lifted her hood.

Under the hood was an exceptionally ugly face.

The top of the head was bald, and between several of the teeth were gaps. There was also a snout, and a constant stink surrounded this person.

The acolyte who had entered the stronghold was actually from the same place as Leylin and she was his old classmate, Nyssa.

“Lord Lilytell!” Nyssa bowed respectfully, though her expression was stiff.

Due to her appearance, she had been discriminated against and bullied, but most of the acolytes did not think their actions were too excessive.

The acolyte obstructing her way was from the Lilytell family and had a whole gang escorting him. He was exceedingly arrogant and often made fun of her appearance.

“Hn!” The acolyte nodded indifferently, looking aloof and proud.

“Swine Nyssa, this is not a place you should be in. Don’t let your bad smell alarm the various Lord Magi here! They are our forefathers!”

The acolyte who had the word 'Lilytell' in his name covered his nostrils, looking at her in disdain.

"I... I'll leave now..." Nyssa hastily retreated.

However, as she was leaving, she accidentally tripped and revealed the red ore in her hand.

"Hm! Wait!" That acolyte immediately stopped her. "What's that in your hand? What is it? Take it out!"

"No! No, it's nothing!" Nyssa kept drawing back and tried her best to hide it, but the panic in her eyes could not be hidden so easily.

"Bitch!"

The acolyte cursed, and suddenly made his move. His entire right hand abruptly became bigger; the flesh bulged bit by bit, and the blue veins were prominent.

Thud! A punch landed on Nyssa's face, and her entire body was sent flying.

While she was in midair, a red ore fell to the ground, whirling around like a spinning top.

"A Markov Crystal? And it's actually red?" The acolyte of the Lilytell family stared hard at the red ore, joy and greed flashing in his expression.

"That's mi-mine..." Seeing the greed in the acolyte's face, Nyssa's heart sank. However, this ore was extremely important to her since she would need it to advance, so she drummed up her courage and spoke up.

"Darned bitch! Even the skin on her face is so thick!"

The acolyte who had punched her swung his arm. "This crystal was my gains from yesterday. You despicable thief, wretched thief; not only did you steal it, you even dared to claim that it's yours!"

The acolyte waved his arm. "Go! Grab her and send her to the academy's enforcement team to be punished!"

The few acolytes behind him encircled her, their intentions clear.

Nyssa kept stepping backwards, yellow pus flowing from her eyes.

A few acolyte bystanders remained unperturbed as they watched, and even some of the Magi looked on in the same fashion.

That acolyte was from the Lilytell family! They were one of the three big families in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy! Many of the people in that family held important positions in the academy!

Offending them was akin to offending the school.

In addition, the Magi in charge of the stronghold were all people from the Lilytell family. Even if somebody else wanted to help her, there was nothing that could be done.

Besides, Magi were a bunch of practical beings, and this was even more so for dark Magi.

Why would they especially go against the Lilytell family for somebody like Nyssa, an ugly freak like her?

Hence, all they could do was to give a heavy sigh and continue with their work, as if they had seen nothing.

“Hehe! You’ve been an eyesore for far too long. Just seeing your back spoils my appetite!”

One of the acolytes around her snickered as he grabbed forward with his right hand! A black claw suddenly appeared, scratching towards Nyssa’s face.

“I want to smash this disgusting face to bits!”

The acolyte roared, as if at this very moment, a sense of righteousness had possessed him.

“No!” Nyssa blocked her face with her hands.

Bang! The black claw scratched at her arm, but only a layer of skin broke.

As the product of a failed experiment of an official Magus, Nyssa had gained a resistance to spells that ordinary acolytes did not have. Her

strength had also increased, though she had no clue if this was good or bad.

“Damn it!”

The acolytes around her were fuming red as if they had been humiliated. They looked at each other and suddenly attacked as a group.

Fireballs! Ice bolts! Hurricanes! All of these were thrown towards her head.

“Don’t-Don’t force me!” Nyssa wailed as she ran from the onslaught of magic, hands hugging her head.

“Pu!” Thick green pus sprayed out of her mouth, right into the face of an acolyte opposite her.

“Ah!” The facial muscles of that acolyte fell bit by bit, and he could do little but hold on to his face and roll around on the floor in pain.

At this moment, the spiritual waves belonging to a level 3 acolyte exploded forth from Nyssa.

“You’ve been hiding your strength, eh?” Seeing the state that his subordinate was in, the acolyte of the Lilytell family could take it no longer.

He walked a few steps forward, a teasing grin on his face. “Once more! Attack me!”

He arrogantly pointed at his face.

Nyssa stepped back in response to his provocation. She was not stupid. If she dared to attack someone of the Lilytell family here, the Magi here would definitely tear her apart.

“Haha... You don’t dare to? Then I’m going to make my move!” The acolyte laughed maniacally as he pointed a finger at Nyssa.

“Bind!”

From the silver necklace around his neck, countless silver threads were produced. Layer by layer they extended like a spider web and caught Nyssa

inside.

Shua Shua!

Silver threads inwardly gathered, binding her inside.

Tsss! Even with the modifications to Nyssa's skin, yellow pus flowed under the tight binding of the silver threads. A look of pain appeared on her face.

"Let's do this together! Kill that bitch!"

Feeling that his reputation had been sullied, this acolyte of the Lilytell family had begun to disregard the rules of the academy, wanting all schoolmates who were present to kill her!

After all, he was a part of the Lilytell family. Even if he did something wrong, the worst punishment he would get was confinement. His family members would definitely rescue him, so what was there to fear?

Seeing herself on the verge of being encircled once more by acolytes with the light from spells flashing in their hands, she could only hang her head sadly.

"Am I going to die here today? Though it's a type of release, dying in such a manner really doesn't sit well with me..." Nyssa thought to herself.

Boom!

The sound of immense waves from magic resounded.

Nyssa squeezed her eyes shut, but feeling no pain in her head, she raised her head in astonishment.

Her jaw dropped in amazement.

She could see a huge Venom Wyvern hovering around in the sky, above the stronghold's wards.

A black, flaming hand scooped downwards, fierce black flames immediately tearing apart a huge hole in the ward.

"Enemy attack!"

The owls from before appeared once more, turning into the shape of a

giant.

“Shoo!”

A young man wearing black robes waved his arm disdainfully.

A huge black fireball fell like a comet.

Boom!

Innumerable feathers flew, and the giant made from the owls immediately dispersed after a brief contact with the flames. Owl after owl was burnt to ashes, falling from the sky.

Chapter 222: Appearance

“Rain of Fire!”

From atop the Venom Wyvern’s back Leylin’s gentle voice was heard.

Shortly after, yet another huge black fireball emerged out of nowhere on top of the stronghold, and boom! The fireball exploded, dispersing into black fire droplets that looked like rain, spreading across the entire area.

Sssii!

An acolyte who had been surrounding Nyssa had brief contact with a fire droplet that brushed by his shoulder, and before he could even make a sound, he had been reduced to a pile of white ash.

“Ru-Run!” The acolyte from the Lilytell family’s voice wavered, his fear apparent.

Shua Shua Shua! The acolytes that had been surrounding Nyssa looked as if they had seen a ghost, evading the fire droplets in the air, terrified.

Tss tss! A black spark fell on the silver threads that bound Nyssa.

In that instant, this magic artifact was warped out of shape by the black flames and eventually melted into a silver white liquid that dripped to the ground.

Under the onslaught of black fire droplets, large numbers of acolytes were turned to ash without any chance to resist.

The surrounding buildings began to burn furiously, and under the attack of the Rain of Fire, everything instantly turned into a sea of fire.

“It’s-It’s Leylin!”

Nyssa whispered, but at that moment, she saw a black fire droplet flying towards her.

“Hm?” Leylin looked around mid-air and suddenly noticed a very familiar figure from the corner of his eyes.

“It’s Nyssa!” Leylin exclaimed, and under his manipulation, the black fire

droplet deviated, brushing past the edges of Nyssa's hair.

"Who dares to attack the territory of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?"

Several black human figures dashed out. One of them rapidly chanted a few incantations, and a dome emitting green rays appeared in the sky, blocking the attack of the black fire droplets.

Drip! Drip! Drip!

Countless black fire droplets splashed onto the dome and began to burn.

The Magus who cast the protection spell immediately cried out in alarm. "The might of this black fire is immense. My spiritual force is being rapidly consumed. Who will help me?"

"Me!" A Magus nearby immediately chanted a few words, and a layer of blue ice extended across the layer of protection.

Green, blue, and black rays of light mixed together soared into the sky and descended, forming a huge tornado.

After the tornado descended.

The two Magi looked pale, and it was evident that they had suffered massively.

However, at this point, nobody bothered with them.

"Black flames that are astoundingly strong! That Venom Wyvern as well! You must be 'Blackfire' Leylin!"

A Magus who seemed to be the leader recognised Leylin.

"What? It's him!" "Leylin!" "That genius who betrayed us?"

All of a sudden, clamours of disbelief broke out from the survivors.

"You... must be Magi from the Lilytell family, right?" Leylin clasped his hands behind his back. "Don't deny it! Even from this distance, I can smell that putrid stench of your bloodline on your bodies!"

"So what?" A silver-haired Magus stood. "You actually dared to kill the sole grandson of our elder. I've already sent him a signal, so just wait here and prepare to be punished!"

“You’ve told him? Good! That’s great!”

Leylin’s reaction obviously surprised the silver-haired Magus.

Leylin continued, “Since you’ve already alerted him, there’s no point in keeping any of you alive.”

Hearing Leylin’s words, the Magi present felt a chill in their hearts, a sense of foreboding became apparent.

“Shadow Domain!” Countless tentacles extended from the shadow under Leylin’s feet, spreading across the horizon and completely blocking all the sunlight in the area.

“Be careful!” The Magus leader nearby could only screech, before a black light flashed and a crimson palm went through his chest, digging out a bright red heart that still pumped furiously.

Under the assault of the Crimson Palm, the innate defense spells of these Magi were torn apart like paper.

“He-He killed the leader!”

One of the Magi present looked at Leylin as if they were looking at the devil incarnate, and yelled in despair before running in the opposite direction.

“Lum, come back!” The surrounding Magi shouted, but it was too late.

Within the shadows, Leylin seemed to be a grain of dust that had fused with the gentle wind and floated to Lum’s back. A crimson palm went for his head.

Rumble!

A layer of crimson flames began to burn furiously on Lum, and turned the official Magus into ashes.

Regular rank 1 Magi were as weak as children in front of Leylin. They were easily taken care of.

Zoom!

Leylin suddenly sensed something and gazed into the distance.

From far away, a silver ray of light was like a sharp sword, heading here in a straight line.

“The main character is here!” Leylin grinned, arms rising as he clenched his fists.

The darkness that had engulfed the entire region was withdrawn into Leylin’s palm, turning into a sphere of darkness which hovered in the air. Strong energy waves swept the area, a violent storm surging and bringing up an entire layer of the ground.

“Halt!” The silver-white ray shouted from afar.

Unfortunately, Leylin did not care for the voice and flung out the sphere of darkness.

The sphere of darkness that was full of destructive power approached the remaining Magi soundlessly.

Under their terrified gazes, the black sphere advanced slowly and steadily, their spells and innate defensive spells devoured by the sphere.

A few official Magi were run over by the sphere, leaving behind tracks on the ground.

“I’ll kill you!”

Along with the furious growl, the speed of the silver ray increased by a few times, and Leylin could almost see an old man with silver ornaments on his face.

“Time to switch locations!” Leylin gave a light smile and patted Hawke’s head.

“Awoo!”

Hawke let out a roar that seemed to be a demonstration of its might, and with a jolt of its wings, it quickly left the area.

Chi!

In a few seconds, the silver light from afar arrived, revealing the figure of an old man in silver white attire.

The old man gazed at the stronghold, which had been reduced to ruins. His clothes rustled despite the lack of wind, violent metal elemental particles hovered behind him.

“You can’t escape! Even if you were to escape to the ends of the earth, I will still find you and kill you!”

Metallic silver white rays flashed, and the old man was gone, leaving behind the echoes of his words.

.....

Another ten or so minutes passed.

Crash! Within the ruins, there was an area with a mound. A bizarre creature that looked like it had been sewn together emerged.

“Was that Leylin just now? I can’t believe this! So he’s actually become such a powerful official Magus...”

Nyssa gazed in the direction Leylin had left, muttering to herself incessantly.

As Leylin had intentionally directed his attack away, as well as her somewhat strong resistance to magic, she had not gained any major injuries in this terrifying attack save for a few holes in her clothes.

“Official Magus...” An envious glint appeared in Nyssa’s eyes.

To be rid of the harm done to her body, she had to raise her strength to the level of an official Magus. Only then would she be able to alter her body and regain her original appearance.

“One day! I will reach that point one day!” Nyssa clenched her fists resolutely.

Rustle!

At this moment, a large sound was heard from a fallen wooden building nearby. At the bottom of the building, an acolyte could be seen.

Nyssa walked over curiously but was met with the face of the acolyte that belonged to the Lilytell family.

However, compared to Nyssa, this acolyte was very unlucky. Not only an arm and a leg was broken, there was a huge injury in his abdominal area. Even his intestines were spilling out, and all he could do was moan and groan in pain.

“You! Come here!” Upon seeing Nyssa, this acolyte brightened up.

“What is it?” Nyssa gazed at him indifferently.

“A filthy, lowly acolyte like you... still, has a bit of use! Send-Send me to my family, and I’ll give you a few items that are barely passable as a reward...”

The acolyte stumbled over his words, looking at Nyssa with disdain, as if letting her touch him was a huge honour.

However, Nyssa was unmoved like a block of wood and stood there without moving.

“You... “The acolyte was flushed red with anger as he pointed at Nyssa, wanting to say something.

Pak!

With his movement, a red ore fell from his lap, spinning on the ground.

Upon seeing the ore, Nyssa’s eyes looked dangerous.

“You! What do you think you’re doing?”

The acolyte that had been arrogant beyond belief suddenly felt a hint of danger, a fearful expression flashed past before he tried to sit upright.

“Are you trying to attack me? You have to think this—”

Bang!

Before the acolyte could finish his words, a green corrosive ball landed on his head, eating through most of his head in the next second.

Gazing upon his corpse, Nyssa went forward and retrieved that red ore.

“I merely followed your earlier instructions and focused my attack on your face, young master Lilytell...”

Nyssa had a strange expression on her face. It seemed to be dread, but at

the same time, she looked as if a weight had been lifted off her shoulders.

.....

Leylin stood in the heart of a spacious land filled with broken stones while appearing to be waiting for someone.

The Venom Wyvern Hawke was useless in this level of battle and had been ordered to return.

All of a sudden, Leylin raised his head as if he had sensed something.

Chapter 223: Liquid Metal

A ray of silver white light shot through the heavens like an arrow.

Bang!

The ray shot towards Leylin's side, knocking aside countless stones.

After the light rays dissipated, an old man in silver white attire was revealed.

This old geezer had a nose that was bent the way an eagle's beak was, and he had a few metallic ornaments dangling from his face. A pair of intelligent, tenacious eyes were fixed on Leylin.

"You're not running anymore?"

The old man spread his right arm and a metallic sphere emerged on his palm as if it was a part of his body.

The silvery white metallic sphere circled the area, and the astoundment on the old man's face was even more obvious. There was even a hint of confusion in his expression.

"No traps or ambushes either? Are you here to die?"

"No! I just want to settle a few things!" Leylin smiled indifferently. His main goal this time around was to collect data, and hence, he had not thought to bring his trump cards, Number 2 and Number 3.

Though Leylin had never seen this old man before, he was able to recognise him at a single glance. This was the Lilytell's family's great elder, and the grandfather of the acolyte Bosain, who had died by Leylin's hands.

Previously, at a small town by the Great Canyon Margaret, this old geezer had operated a clone and had it chase after him. In that battle, this man's face had appeared on its chest.

"By the way, it's already been so long, but I have yet to know your name..."

Leylin smiled gently.

The old geezer looked closely at Leylin. “With your power, you meet the qualifications to know my name. Marb Lilytell! Remember it well, because this is the name of the person who will send you to hell!”

After he spoke, a circle of silver white light was emitted from Marb’s body.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

Countless metal spikes emerged from the ground, constantly extending before converging in mid-air, and forming a cage that locked Leylin and Marb within.

“Metallic Battle Prison!” Marb quickly made a few hand signs.

After seeing a bit of Leylin’s strength, Marb had acknowledged Leylin as a proper opponent. His current move was to prevent Leylin from escaping.

Ding!

A halo of silvery white metallic elemental particles radiated from Marb’s body, evidently much denser than what could be produced by a semi-converted magus. It resembled closely to a sphere and covered Marb’s entire body.

His elemental essence conversion had reached at least 80%, and with spells such as this that increased his performance, his strength was effectively doubled!

Xiu Xiu!

From the surface of the metallic prison, bursts of light circulated, and little, white, barbed spikes suddenly emerged. The hooks on the spikes glinted with a menacing light that caused one’s heart to palpitate and break out in cold sweat.

The innumerable spokes were like sharp arrows, making loud whooshing sounds as they shot all around, blocking any routes that Leylin could take to dodge them.

Light from magic could be seen on the surfaces of the spikes as well.

This was obviously a support spell that had been added to keep the spokes sharp and strong.

With this degree of attack, a regular newly-advanced Magus would be turned into a porcupine!

However, Leylin made no attempt to dodge.

Rumble!

From his body, a ring of black flames suddenly emerged.

The flames were like a liquid, covering his entire body and giving him a layer of black armour. An immense wave of hot air spread through the prison, and even Marb, who was far away, could not help but furrow his brows.

Pu pu!

As the silver white spikes approached the flames, they flickered and appeared to be melting.

By the time they actually met with Leylin's latent flames, the silver white spikes made little sounds and were melted into small silvery-white metallic balls.

Clatter!

The sounds of pearls dropping were heard, and as these metallic balls struck the dark red protective layer behind the flames, they produced clear sounds and promptly lost all kinetic energy, before falling to the ground and rolling in all directions.

At the sight of this, Marb's expression became serious, and there was even a hint of vigilance on his face!

"Your rate of improvement far exceeded my expectations! I'm now slightly regretful. Back then, I should have dispatched a few more clones and eliminated you."

Leylin's strength had been tested by Marb's clone back then. Though he was quite strong, Leylin merely had the strength of a semi-converted Magus. If not for the fact that Marb had sent out merely a single clone,

and Leylin's spells had been too mysterious and astonishing, Marb believed that Leylin would not have been able to escape!

Now, however, the strength that his opponent now displayed was close to that of a peak rank 1 Magus!

What was more terrifying was that it had only been two to three years since he had last seen Leylin! A rank 1 Magus would typically still be considered newly-advanced at that point.

"He definitely should not be allowed to live any longer. If not, our Lilytell family will have ourselves a terrifyingly powerful enemy..."

Marb came up with this conclusion.

Having made this decision, his desire for Leylin's blood became more intense, and his two eyes turned into a silvery white colour as if they were made of silver.

"Liquid Metal!" Marb muttered under his breath.

Immediately after, rows of complicated metal elemental runes lit up on several places on his body, and a ring of silver light was emitted from within his clothes.

A layer of silvery-white liquid metal suddenly oozed out of the pores of his body, quickly covering his skin and transforming him into solid, reflective, silvery-white, metallic human figure.

Liquid metal constantly collected in his right hand, first turning into a ball, and then constantly lengthening until it turned into a lance-like weapon.

"This sort of thing?" Leylin's eyes flashed, suddenly thinking back to the mysterious magic artifact that emanated silvery light. That metallic ball that could change into different shapes had left a very deep impression on him.

Unfortunately, Leylin had left the artifact in the Dylan Gardens to avoid trouble. It had already been completely destroyed along with the secret plane.

From the looks of it, that metallic ball was a magic artifact that Marb had invented.

“Kill!”

Marb turned into a silver hurricane, which headed straight for Leylin.

“Interesting! A Magus that specialises in close combat?” Leylin was extremely interested, and he quickly activated his innate defensive spell, Kemoyin’s Scales.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Black and silver figures rammed into each other, and the resulting shockwave caused a layer of the ground to lift. The surrounding animals—snakes, worms, mice, and ants, as well as other bizarre creatures—seemed to sense an imminent catastrophe, and quickly escaped, hoping to be as far away as possible.

The crimson rays from Leylin’s Fallen Star Pendant turned into a crossblade to fend off Marb’s silver lance. Sparks emerged as they battled.

After a few rounds, Leylin’s expression became more serious.

This Marb had obviously remodelled his own body. Whether it was his strength or speed, both were very strong. On top of that, he was skilled in methods to kill opponents, and coupled with his metallic elemental talent, he was practically a refined killing machine!

Ding! The crimson crossblade met with the lance once again, producing a crisp sound and constant strong gales. The greenery around them was continuously being blown about.

Pu!

At this moment, Marb suddenly had a look on his face that indicated he had succeeded in some kind of plot.

The sharp, pointed end of the silver-white lance instantly became flexible, and like a snake twisting its body, it bent and thrust, piercing towards Leylin’s body.

Tss tss! Leylin's winced a little as several black scales chipped off.

"Battle Mode!" Seeing that his attack had been effective, Marb looked even more crazed as he yelled.

Next, dense needles emerged on his silvery white body, and his weapon also underwent some changes.

Broadsword! Crossblade! Battleaxe! Maul!

All kinds of weapons appeared in Marb's hands. On the surface of the blades, there were also strong energy waves that indicated the use of magic. It was definitely enough to pierce through Leylin's defense and cause tremendous damage.

"In terms of close combat, even with the aid of the A.I. Chip, I'm not at an advantage!" Leylin pondered.

Xiu Xiu Xiu!

Countless tendrils of shadow encircled Marb and tightened.

At the same time, Leylin hastily retreated and raised his arm, several black fireballs appearing above his palm.

"Latent fireball!"

The black fireballs fused and increased in size, and then flew towards Marb.

"How can this level of attack affect me? How naive!"

From within the constraints of the shadow tendrils, Marb's disdainful tone could be heard.

Tu! Tu! Tu!

From the surface of Marb's body, silver liquid metal kept oozing out and turning into countless sharp blades. Like gears, they revolved quickly and brought about a fierce, merciless wind.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The black tendrils touched the revolving blades and emitted a few sounds. They fell to the ground in several pieces, transforming into a

gaseous state and dispersing.

“Hah!” The weapon in Marb’s hand turned into a giant silver sword.

With both hands on the handle, a ring of metallic elemental particles poured into the sword and gave it a sheen of light.

“Metallic Destruction!” Marb viciously swung forward!

Ka-cha! As the blade was brought down, the front half of the metallic sword suddenly detached and advanced towards the black fireball.

The silvery white tip of the blade kept changing forms in midair, before eventually transforming into a white lion head.

“Roar!”

The lion head opened its mouth wide and produced an earth-shattering howl as it faced the latent fireball.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The surroundings around them seemed to be frozen in place, and even the air ceased to circulate.

Chapter 224: Metal And Gravity

Rumble!

The world seemed to stop at this second.

A few seconds later, the surroundings returned to normal.

The situation just now was as if a movie was being screened, but had suddenly malfunctioned.

Next, a strong energy storm spread out in all directions.

In the centre of the energy storm, black flames and silvery white rays of light constantly battled, engulfing each other.

Creak...

At the boundaries of the battle, where Marb had set up the metallic prison, the cage constantly creaked in protest of their intense fight.

Minutes later, the frightening energy storm dissipated.

Marb did not have a single injury on him, and even his hair was untouched. He stared straight in Leylin's direction, grabbing at him with a single hand, "Lad! Come here!"

Leylin's body moved sluggishly, and this was enough time for several silver chains to lock him into place, and make his body involuntarily fly towards Marb.

"Die!"

Marb charged forward furiously, the spikes and blades attacking like the rain, with each spike and blade carrying a large amount of energy. Just being hit by one would cause a regular rank 1 Magus serious injuries.

"Fallen Star Pendant!"

Leylin bellowed, and the black scales and dark red light fused together, forming a ring of unusual light.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha! His muscles swelled, and he broke the chains binding him using his brute strength.

Ding ding! Ding ding!

Silver flying needles and blades fell upon this layer of light and were then repelled, producing sparks and crisp sounds.

“Is this all you have? You disappoint me!”

Leylin looked to be quite disappointed, and moments later, his eyes turned amber!

“If that’s the most you can do, then I give my apologies. You’re the one dying here today!”

In a flash, a strange light emitted from Leylin’s eyes and headed straight into Marb’s eyes.

The innate spell—Eyes of Petrification!

Marb’s charging form suddenly became sluggish, and a layer of ashen stone skin spread, beginning from the corners of his eyes.

Weng Weng!

A burst of white light was produced by a talisman around Marb’s neck.

Under the milky white shine, the stone skin on his face came loose bit by bit.

“A talisman meant to counter against petrification? It’s quite effective. It must have been difficult to obtain!”

Leylin’s expression did not change as he came up to Marb in a few breaths.

The first time he had been chased after by Marb’s clone, Leylin had revealed his petrification abilities. That was how he had turned the tables on the clone, but in the process, he had also exposed his ability to petrify his opponents.

As his archenemy, how could Marb not make preparations against that?

However, even in ancient times, petrification was a lesser known spell. In the south coast, it was practically extinct. Talismans that could be used to negate it were scarce, and most could only be found in ancient ruins.

Leylin was a little surprised at Marb's ability to find one so quickly.

However, even if Marb had a talisman, how could it be that effective against the petrification methods of an ancient creature such as the Giant Serpent Kemoyin?

Though Marb had dispelled the petrification, he had still been slowed.

Shua! Black light flashed, and in that instant, Leylin was already in front of Marb, his amber eyes meeting Marb's.

"Die!"

The crimson light produced by the Fallen Star Pendant solidified into a giant axe. However, Leylin did not seem to be satisfied and pointed at the weapon.

Shik!

Immense black flames engulfed the axe.

"Hah!" Leylin shouted, and large numbers of shadows emerged from behind him, and converged onto his body.

From the shadows, Leylin's tall figure suddenly shot up, and he transformed into a three metre tall giant with tanned skin.

"Aooooo!"

The giant roared, the muscles on his arm bulging, and showing the dark red, earthworm-like veins on his body.

Like a deity from legends, the giant held the large axe and swung, aiming for Marb's neck!

Chi! Before the hatchet connected, the unimaginable sharpness of the heat waves and gales produced from the swing had already destroyed the defensive layer of liquid metal on his neck.

Ka-cha!

The fiery, black axe cut through Marb's neck, and it looked as if his head was going to fall off. The black flames extended throughout his body in an instant.

Marb's expression was blank as he collapsed.

"Hm?" Leylin was in a daze. This was much too easy, but even official Magi would not live if their heads were chopped off!

[Beep! Danger! Detecting target still giving out energy waves!] The A.I. Chip sounded at this moment.

Immediately after, a ray of snow white light appeared in front of Leylin.

"This is bad!" All Leylin could do was to try his best to dodge, and protect the most important parts of his body.

Puchi! A silvery white longsword that was giving off milky white light pierced into Leylin's lower abdomen.

"Scram!"

Both of Leylin's hands turned crimson, and blood coloured flames blazed as he clawed down!

"Crimson Palm!"

At the same time, he retreated without even glancing at Marb.

After he managed to create some distance between them, Leylin covered the injury on his abdomen while looking at Marb in shock.

At this moment, Marb had turned into a white metallic humanoid. His head, which was tilted, was loosely connected to his neck by a tiny amount of skin. His body was still burning with black flames, yet it was as though he didn't feel a thing as he quietly stood there. The sword that was held by Marb was also dripping with Leylin's blood.

At the point of Marb's neck where he had chopped, Leylin could see that the surface of the open wound was now all metallic, where there was no likeness to a human's flesh and blood at all.

"To think that not only did he have his outer appearance protected by the liquid metal, even his internals had completed turned into metal..."

Leylin's heart sank.

"Hahah..." Marb, whose head was dangling, laughed wildly. "Bet you'd

never thought of this huh? Ninety-odd years ago, I had already completely fused my body with a metallic creature, so now, I don't have a single weak point on my body. Injuries in places that would be fatal to other regular Magi are just scratches to me..."

"How pathetic!"

Leylin looked at the somewhat crazed Marb with a pitiful look on his face.

Although there were benefits to fusing with an elemental creature, by doing so, one would lose their sense of touch.

When one's flesh and skin turned into metal, he would not be able to enjoy the sense of touch anymore.

Wasn't real reason for a Magus to pursue the truth and climb to the top, to control his fate and fulfill his desires, enjoying life to the fullest?

But now, for the sake of power, Marb had actually forsaken such a thing. So then, what more was the meaning of his pursuit?

"The pathetic one is you!"

Evidently, Leylin's look of pity had deeply triggered Marb and his deranged expression grew even more intense.

Suddenly, a brownish yellow light flickered on Marb's body. The silver liquid metal protruded outward, transforming into a tiny spell formation.

"Gravity spell formation!" After having been inflicted damage several times by Leylin, Marb finally revealed the trump card that he had been holding back!

Weng!

In an instant, a huge amount of brownish yellow light began to emanate from him.

"This is... Gravity?!" Suddenly, Leylin felt his body turned heavy as if it was being crushed by a large mountain. As it happened, Leylin recalled something.

Around him, the gravitational force multiplied in an instant. Not only was movement difficult, Leylin's face darkened due to the fact that even his internal organs had suffered from the gravitational pull to the point that pain had spread from his insides.

"Not good; although my defense on the outside is strong, it's a completely different story for my insides! If this goes on and he activates a one hundred times multiplier, my body will most likely be obliterated..."

Leylin's face was extremely unsightly at this point in time.

Marb, who had a body made of metal, would not suffer any hindrances to his brain or organs.

"Hahaha... Once more! Times ten!"

Marb shouted, and the brownish yellow light flashed even brighter.

Leylin's feet sank, and the injury to his abdomen, which had undergone hemostasis, started to bleed profusely again due to the gravitational pull.

"Hahaha... Come on!"

Marb dashed right in front of Leylin and brandished his sword, yet Leylin could only feebly raise his right hand to deflect the blow.

Bang!

The scales on his arm were crushed and shattered, and Leylin was sent flying backwards like a cannonball.

"Not enough! Still not enough! Times twenty!" Marb pierced the ground with both of his hands.

In an instant, Leylin felt as if the gravitational force had increased once more. If he had felt the weight of a mountain crushing him before, now, it was the weight of three mountains!

Boom!

A huge crater was created on the ground the moment Leylin's body landed.

"Go to hell!" Marb's right hand turned into a giant silver hammer.

“Urgh! You actually restored the ancient gravity spell formation!”

Leylin laid on his back as he smiled with a hint of admiration, “Not bad indeed!”

This expression gave Marb a sudden yet very uneasy premonition.

“You’re already going to die. What are you trying to act so tough for?” Marb hammered down viciously.

“Suction spell formation! Activate!”

Under the shadow of the large hammer, Leylin rapidly chanted a few syllables.

Weng!

A reversed ‘j’-shaped rune suddenly appeared on Leylin’s body.

In a flash, Leylin seemed to be pulled back by a huge force and flew away from under the giant hammer, and into a distant place.

“Trying to escape? Times thirty...”

Watching Leylin’s retreating figure, the brownish yellow light on Marb’s body increased in brightness once more.

Chapter 225: Undo

“Times thirty...”

Marb bellowed in frustration.

The brownish yellow spell formation flashed, and then exploded!

The layers of silver metal on his body fell to the ground, turning into round, silvery white pieces.

“Damn it... My body can’t take it anymore...”

Marb half knelt on the ground, a stubborn look on his face as he looked in the direction that Leylin had escaped.

The gravitational spell formation had taken a lot out of him. With his strength as a peak rank 1 Magus, he could increase the gravitational force up to 20 times the normal amount.

.....

A long distance away from the battlefield, inside a secret cave.

A spell formation emitting light constantly drew in and expelled air, as if trying to suck something in. On top of the spell formation, there was a constantly flashing reversed “L” shaped rune.

Beside the spell formation, two knights in black heavy armour nervously stood guard.

Boom!

The light from the suction spell formation suddenly became brighter.

In the blink of an eye, a black figure charged inside with a speed that one could not see with the naked eye, and smashed into the centre of the spell formation, producing a loud sound.

Dust flew everywhere, and the spell formation was completely destroyed, leaving a large pit on the ground.

“Pu!”

Leylin mustered up strength and sat up, spitting out another mouthful of

blood. At the same time, intense pain flared up from all parts of his body, as if he had been ripped apart.

The strong suction power of this spell had allowed Leylin to escape, but it had also caused his injuries to worsen.

“It’s still not possible for me to battle with a peak rank 1 Magus. Everyone has their own trump cards...”

Leylin smiled wryly.

“Master!” Number 2 and 3 immediately knelt and greeted him.

“Hn! We need to leave here as soon as possible!”

Leylin looked left and right before commanding his subordinates.

He was currently seriously injured, and had no battle power to speak of whatsoever. No matter if he met enemies or people from his faction, it would still be very dangerous.

The good thing was that in this period of time, he had already set up a few hideouts in the region that were only known to his two spirit bound slaves. They were the safest places that he could be in.

Leylin wasn’t planning on appearing in front of anyone before recovering from his injuries.

With the support of Number 2 and Number 3, Leylin quickly left the area.

“Although I suffered massive injuries, I still garnered some profits! At the very least, Marb’s two trump cards, his metal body and gravitational spell, have been revealed to me.”

This kind of knowledge regarding a peak rank 1 Magus was very difficult to obtain.

Leylin had gathered some information through the Thousand Meddling Hands and the Four Seasons Garden, but things like trump cards were not mentioned in the reports from these two organisations.

Perhaps, this might have been due to his status being too low and him

lacking in power.

“A.I. Chip! Have you recorded all the previous data?” Leylin asked.

[Marb’s general data has been recorded. Beginning generation of stats!] The A.I. Chip’s robotic voice resounded in Leylin’s ear, and immediately after, a blue light flashed in front of him, producing a virtual screen.

[Marb Lilytell. Peak Rank 1 Magus. Estimated Strength: 10.7. Agility: 9.5. Vitality: 23. Spiritual Force: 79. Magic Power: 79 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion type: Metal. Progress: 78% – 85%.

[Special techniques: 1. Metallic Life: After fusing with a lifeform that is purely metallic, all fatal attacks are ineffective. Vitality increases, and damage increased when using metal magic. As a side effect, loss of sense of touch. 2. Gravitational Spell Formation: Discovered gravitational runes related to gravity spell formation. Estimated completion of spell: 56%. Information recorded! Able to achieve between 2 and 25 times normal gravity over an area of 100 metres when used as an attack. Estimated strongest might: 29 times normal gravity!]

After this battle, Marb’s basic stats had been calculated.

This meant that the next time they fought, if Leylin took countermeasures towards his attacks, the chances of Marb dying by Leylin’s hand would be more than 50%.

This was an advantage based on the information the data had given him. Leylin’s eyes flashed. “A.I. Chip! Construct human model and simulate the best ways to kill him. Factor in Number 2 and Number 3 as well.”

In an instant, scenes of battles appeared in Leylin’s mind.

About ten minutes later, the A.I. Chip’s reply sounded.

[Based on the newest data recorded, result: Death of target! Death of Number 2, massive injuries inflicted on Number 3, host body with light injuries.]

Seeing what the A.I. Chip had planned, a thin smile appeared on his

face. “Marb! The next time we meet will be the day you die...”

.....

Outside the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, inside the inverted castle.

Within a room that was as cold as an ice storehouse, with several large chunks of ice strewn about.

Hyder was wearing a pair of thick, heavy spectacles as he stared fixedly at a beaker with liquid boiling inside.

“The hair of a female goblin, the toenail of a subterranean lizard, and also... the silk sac of a Dulok spider...”

His incantation was unclear, yet both his hands were as precise as a machine as he continuously tossed the items into the beaker.

“Woman of the Deep Red, grace us with your presence!”

After the ingredients had completely fused within the beaker, Hyder raised up and opened his hands towards the sky, and chanted in a very bizarre incantation as if conducting a sacrificial rite.

.....

Weng...

The ground began to tremble, and the stench of blood began to permeate the tiny room.

In an instant, Hyder seemed to have seen a deep, crimson sea surging towards him.

In an instant, the blood coloured sea converged into the figure of a gorgeous woman that strangely had no face.

Her ethereal body floated ever so beautifully in midair.

“...!” Hyder chanted the final stream of the incantation, which was extremely tongue twisting. The accent was extremely difficult to understand as well; it was filled with a primordial and barbaric aura.

“Chikchik...” After listening to Hyder, the woman finally spoke. Her voice sounded like the chirps of a little bird, yet, at the same time, it

strangely sounded like the flapping of insect wings.

“Hurry! Bring it forward!” Hyder said to the old lady behind him.

The old lady clapped her hands, and two black robed servants entered with a dozen feeble, trembling humans who had their heads covered by a black sack.

“Chikchik!” The woman in midair chirped in excitement as she immediately began to stretch her body forward.

Pu! Pu!Pu!

Countless large wounds split open on the bodies of these captives, from which blood gushed out like a fountain.

As if seeing the plague, the two servants quickly retreated.

Gloook!

The blood formed a tiny tendril of steam as it floated through the air towards the woman.

A moment later, there were no longer any traces of blood on the ground. As for the woman, the colour red was even more vibrant on her body now.

After accepting the sacrifices, the woman nodded her faceless head and transformed into the shape of a flask.

Drip-Drop!

A tiny droplet of crimson liquid dripped from the flask directly into the beaker.

Ka-Cha!

After the liquid entered the beaker, a flame emerged from within the beaker and engulfed it. As the flames blazed, the sound of wailing spirits occasionally sounded from within.

As the flames continued to burn, the woman disappeared without a trace.

Whether it was Hyder or the old lady, no one knew how she had left.

“How is it?” The old lady’s gaze was fixed on the flame, which was spreading, and she put on an expression that could make one feel anxious.

Beneath the gleam of the flames, which reflected off of the old lady’s face, there was an intimidating look.

“This is the most feasible method that I could come up with after many experiments. Moreover through a sacrificial rite, I borrowed the power of a trace of blood from an evil spirit... Towards this curse, it should be the best remedy!”

Hyder looked at the subsiding flames, and his expression was extremely calm, his eyes showing signs of wisdom.

“I hope that is so! Jenna’s curse is nearing complete activation, so time is pressing...” The old lady muttered.

Hearing this, a peculiar expression could be seen in Hyder’s eyes.

Although Jenna was the one who had inherited the innate talent of prophecy, Manla was also a relative of theirs. From the perspective of a light Magus, this was somewhat going overboard.

However, Hyder concealed his opinion well, not letting the old lady discover it.

Bang!

Several minutes later, the red flames completely died out, revealing a strange, congealed item in the beaker.

It was an amorphous item, like a large lump of jelly, and was even squirming.

“It’s a success!” A smile surfaced on Hyder’s face.

Following which, his expression turned solemn as he said the old lady, “Madame, although this method of removal has a very high success rate, the curse is an extremely troublesome thing. Some dark Magi also like to add various disgusting and poisonous elements inside, and if they are not treated properly, things could very well become disastrous. Hence, if... what I’m saying is that if there is a possibility, it would still be better to

have a chat with the Magus who laid this curse...”

“No need for that! My family will never be threatened by someone else! Fate is watching over us!” The old lady vehemently rejected the notion, and Hyder could only smile wryly in return.

Due to the possibility of a chain reaction from the activation of the curse, during treatment, Jenna and Manla were held very far apart in their locations.

Hyder wore white robes with many runes occasionally blinking on it.

At this moment, he held onto a container with one hand, which contained the soft body within.

Hyder looked at Manla, who was lying unconscious on the experiment table, and finally gave one last glance at the old lady.

She nodded expressionlessly.

Seeing this, Hyder sighed on the inside, and his face turned serious, “Then, I will begin...”

Chapter 226: Commencement

"I wish you luck!"

Hyder looked at Manla as he prayed for him. He then picked up a gleaming silver scalpel and lightly cut the arm which had the curse.

"Sssii!"

The black curse runes came to life and continuously twisted, forming a tiny black snake that hissed with its forked tongue.

Black gas immediately surrounded Manla's body, which was covered in bulging veins.

The huge bloke broke out in cold sweat and gritted his teeth unconsciously, the agony on his face apparent.

"The first light in this world! Listen to my summons and lend me your strength to dispel this darkness..."

Hyder's lips moved quickly as he rapidly chanted an incantation.

Weng Weng!

In the surroundings of the operating table, countless rays of light suddenly appeared and flew above Manla as they converged into a rune.

Unadulterated, without a trace of any impurities! It was as if the light that first set upon this world had appeared inside the rune.

This milky white light shone on Manla's body.

Chi Chi! Manla's body suddenly arched as he clenched his fists.

At the same time, a seemingly endless amount of black gas was emitted from the pores throughout his body.

All of this gas was very quickly purified by the light.

Hyder looked at the black lines on Manla's body as sweat rolled down the side of his cheek.

His immense spiritual force had now turned into an extremely concentrated and tiny one which continuously scanned Manla's body and

took note of its current state. He also had to guide the light in the cleansing process.

This was a task that required extreme precision. If he made a single mistake, the curse on Manla's body would fully activate.

It was very evident that this put a huge strain on Hyder.

In only a dozen minutes, this old geezer began to pant heavily as his energy began to drop.

However, it was at a time like this that the stability of Hyder's hands was even more pronounced. Just like a robot, his movements were fluid and without the slightest mistake.

Finally, under the pressing attack from the light rays, the cursed runes made of darkness were continuously pushed back until they retreated back into the original wound.

The light rays formed a halo outside the wound and confined it to a small surface area on the flesh.

"Hu..." Hyder exhaled deeply as he wiped the sweat off his forehead.

"I have already confined the curse to one area. Right now, this extraction process is the most crucial..."

Hyder held the container which contained the jelly-like body as if it was some sort of precious treasure.

Following which, he placed the container close to where the wound on Manla's arm was.

"Come forth, my darling!" A strange expression now appeared on Manla's face as he spoke in a tone that could induce dizziness.

"Sssii..."

The runes on Manla's arm writhed and once again turned into the shape of a tiny black snake.

It spat its tongue and, as if it had discovered something, it turned and faced the jelly-like body.

"Chi Chi..." After seeing the small snake, the jelly-like creature, which seemed to have no consciousness, began to shrink its body.

However, this movement attracted the tiny snake and it slithered towards the jelly-like body.

Seeing the small snake closing in, Hyder held on to his breath, as if afraid that his breathing would scare the snake away.

The black snake hesitantly circled the area where the wound was in. It then turned around and slithered away without a second thought!

Just when the old madame thought that it was a failure, the tiny black snake which had turned around coiled its body and darted right into the wound as fast as lightning, jumping on top of the jelly-like creature.

It swallowed the jelly-like body down in a gulp and began to retreat rapidly.

"You want to run?"

Hyder had the last laugh as he grabbed a pair of tweezers with his right hand and reached forward.

The tweezers travelled in a beautiful arc through the air and landed right in front of the tiny black snake and blocked it.

Following which, the tweezers clamped together and held onto the middle of the snake's body.

"Hissss...." The snake hissed as it writhed its body continuously.

Hyder's face was extremely solemn as he knew how much of a calamity would be created if the abomination in his hands were to escape.

Bringing forward a vulcanised test-tube that was covered in runes with his left hand, he tossed the black snake within and plugged the hole.

The runes flashed and sealed the test-tube tightly. Only after looking at this scene did Hyder allow himself a sigh of relief.

"Mister Hyder, is it a success?"

The old lady stepped forward and was extremely excited as she saw that

the cursed runes on Manla's arm had completely vanished.

"Of course! It is done, I have not disgraced my art!" Hyder smiled in an aloof manner.

He had no confidence prior to his attempts to remove this curse. However, in the period of his experiments, this curse had allowed him to greatly improve his Potioneering and healing skills.

"Great! As I was saying, how can we bow down to that dark Magus?"

"Fate is forever on our side!" A light of reverence appeared on the old lady's face, as if the sun had shone on her.

Hyder, who could not withstand this light, closed his eyes and retreated a few steps.

Pa!

At this moment, a very crisp clap sounded from Manla's body and a mysterious black gas once again appeared.

"What is happening?" The old witch was now like a duck which had its neck grasped, her voice hoarse as she asked.

"Damn it, a second curse! It's actually a model composed of a combination of curses!!!"

Regret and shame now flashed across Hyder's face.

At the same time, a huge amount of black gas formed into many tiny black snakes as the dense smog engulfed Manla within.

Chik Chik... From within the black smog, a harrowing sound could be heard.

Seconds later, the black smog dispersed and revealed a blackened skeleton which sat quietly before the experiment table.

This turn of events was extremely quick and even Hyder had no time to react.

"Seriously..."

Hyder could only smile wryly and opened his mouth to say something.

Crack!

The sound of glass shattering could be heard. As if recalling something, Hyder hurriedly tossed the test-tube in his hands away.

Alas, it was all too late!

A black mist that was crackling with lightning exploded on his hands.

A bright layer of light immediately appeared on Hyder's robes that repelled the black mist.

After everything had calmed down, Hyder looked at his already blackened left hand and looked extremely resigned.

.....

"Hmm?" Leylin, who was recuperating in a hidden location, suddenly opened his eyes, revealing a ponderous expression.

"These energy waves... It seems like one of my curses has already activated a reunison effect... Oh! It should be that bloke Manla who is now dead..."

"I'm quite curious about the effects of the hidden mechanism I placed on the curse." Leylin grinned.

Not only did he place a complex curse on both of them, but he also left behind many concealed mechanisms. The poisonous elements and malice hidden within was enough to let the Magus who was healing them to suffer greatly. If the healer was not careful, he might even lose his life!

Leylin was confident that after witnessing the prowess of his curse, the family behind Jenna would have no choice but to bow their heads down to him.

Even if he was not certain of the unique meditation technique this family possessed, one could easily tell that a Magus who was able to predict the future held an extremely high position!

As such, he had many things that he wanted from that family.

However, Leylin only toyed with the idea for a while before tossing it to

the back of his mind. Right now, he was stark naked as he rested his chiselled body in a stone pool.

In the centre of the pool, there was a deep green fluid emitting the scent of plants and an enormous life force which continuously healed Leylin's injuries.

This was the healing solution that Leylin had brewed before. Not only were many healing potions combined in it, but the Fantasy Water that he procured before in this location was also one of the main ingredients.

Through the translucent liquid, one could see that Leylin's abdominal injury had now fully recovered, only leaving behind a tiny pink scar which was rapidly fading away.

This speed had already somewhat exceeded Leylin's expectations.

"No! This isn't the effect of the healing solution, but the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent..." Light flashed past as Leylin shut both his eyes.

A massive amount of spiritual force turned into tiny threads that filled his body.

Through his observation with the spiritual force, he could distinctly feel that various areas on his body had begun to erupt with a mysterious energy which continued to replenish and heal his injuries.

These energies were dark red in colour with an ancient aura. With its help, Leylin's body rapidly began to heal.

"Not only this!"

Leylin reached forward with his right hand and clenched his fist tightly.

Ka-Cha! A huge explosion sounded in the air, as if something was ripped into shreds.

"I can feel that during my recuperation, the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent is slowly strengthening the properties of my body!"

The abyss seen in Leylin's eyes became even darker.

"This... The second transition of the bloodline, it's here!"

The severe injuries he sustained seemed to have hastened the progress of the second transition in his body. The Giant Kemoyin Serpent bloodline in Leylin's body continuously surged and many mysterious energies began to be released, fusing with Leylin on a more profound level.

[Detected that the Host's properties are currently being strengthened! A transition in the Giant Kemoyin Serpent is ongoing! The second transition will commence in ten seconds!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

Hisssss...

A layer of fine black scales covered Leylin's body in a flash. He had actually unknowingly activated his innate spell.

Under the flicker of the black light, the scales were strengthened. Even Leylin's eyes had become an amber colour with vertical pupils.

Chapter 227: Transition

“Number 2! Number 3!”

Leylin shouted.

“Master!” Two Branded Swordsmen wearing heavy armour immediately came and knelt down in front of Leylin.

“I’m activating all concealment and defence spell formations. You are to stand guard outside and not let any living being come inside.”

Leylin instructed. The two spirit-branded slaves nodded, keeping a strict vigil outside.

These two Branded Swordsmen were controlled by Leylin through spirit branding. Even if asked to die, they would do so with no qualms and were the best people to guard Leylin.

[Counting down: 8, 7, 6...] The A.I. Chip’s voice became softer.

All that Leylin needed to do now was to snap his fingers, and a ring of a spell formation suddenly emerged from his surroundings, protecting the area.

After doing all this, Leylin closed his eyes and submerged himself in the green liquid.

.....

Time flowed by.

Ten days later, in this little cave, in the middle of the spell formation, dense Dark elemental energy particles were mixed with flaming-red Fire elemental energy particles and they filled the entire pool.

These elemental energy particles were so dense that they were immediately apparent in the external world; different colours were visible on the rock wall around him due to the reflection of light on these elemental particles.

At the heart of the elemental energy particles, black and red vapour converged, seemingly about to crystallize.

In the pool, the original green liquid had completely disappeared, revealing a dried up bottom.

A large black cocoon lay still at the centre of the bottom of the pool, constantly expanding and then shrinking back, just as if it was breathing.

While the black cocoon was 'breathing', the Dark and Fire elemental energy particles were continuously being pulled inside it with each 'inhalation'.

The black light became increasingly thin, till at the end, the hint of a perfect human figure could be seen.

"Tsss!"

A long hissing sound was produced from within the cocoon.

Shortly after, a huge gale engulfed the cave.

The Dark and Fire elemental energy particles in the air seemed to have come across a black hole, and were dragged into the heart of the black cocoon.

The black light around the cocoon became weaker, and then completely dissipated.

"Hm?" Leylin blinked his eyes open.

The moment he had completely awakened, he could feel as if there was a layer of something sticky on his body, and it was very uncomfortable.

He lifted his right arm, and a layer of skin that was the colour of his skin peeled off like withered tree bark.

"What's this? Is this like imitating the molting of the snake species?"

Leylin was a little speechless and quickly tore off the dead skin.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

He efficiently removed the layer of dead skin covering his body. On the layer of the dead skin, there were even scaly resemblances similar to that of a snake's skin.

Leylin placed the skin aside and reassessed his body.

Currently, there were no signs of injuries on his body. All his wounds had recovered, and his mental state was brimming with vitality. In general, his condition was great and better than before.

Leylin stared at his hands.

His palms were now even whiter and exquisite, and the pores seemed to have disappeared – it was like the skin of a newborn baby!

However, Leylin could clearly sense that a hidden and monstrous power was flowing through his arms..

Ba-dump! Ba-dump!

His heart was pounding strongly, circulating blood and other nutritious substances all around his body. While his heart beat, Leylin could almost feel his body becoming stronger bit by bit.

Though this was very slight, with the passing of time, the strength held in his body would be terrifying!

“My body’s vitality has already become so powerful, but what about my spiritual force?”

Leylin closed his eyes and began to feel the elemental energy particles in his sea of consciousness.

In the sea of consciousness, the red rays were even more prominent, and the silvery-white threads of spiritual force were spiralling, seemingly very steady.

“The total amount of spiritual force actually increased so much?”

Leylin transferred a bit of the silver spiritual force to the external world.

While maneuvering the spiritual force, he could feel himself extremely comfortable with this process. His body had adapted to the rapid increase in his spiritual force, and Leylin also knew that after this miraculous transformation, his spiritual force was slightly able to solidify. Within rank 1 Magi, the quality of his spiritual force was definitely one of the best.

After he had made a thread of silver spiritual force probe out of his body, an astonishing scene appeared.

Blackness! Numerous black lights appeared in the sky like fireflies, rushing towards Leylin's spiritual force and clinging onto it.

Leylin had never felt so comfortable in his life.

Even without the use of the A.I. Chip, Leylin knew that the level of his elemental essence conversion had already reached a very high amount.

"I was wrong! I got it all wrong!"

Leylin was dazed for a second, and then laughed wryly.

"The Giant Kemoyin Serpent was originally the child of the shadows, and the elemental essence conversion is just child's play for it. Rather than exploring the strength of my bloodline, I persistently tried to use crystallised Dark elemental energy particles to break through the bottleneck. How stupid..."

Fortunately, it was not too late. Using crystallised elemental energy particles only delayed Leylin's second bloodline transition.

Once he got more familiar with his body, Leylin commanded silently, "A.I. Chip! List the recent changes in my condition!"

Shua shua! Rows of blue words emerged in front of Leylin.

[Beep! Detected rapid liveliness in Host's bloodline, the Kyerlis coefficient is: 44 – 46 – 56 – 78 – 89 – 101! The liveliness has reached the threshold and the Giant Kemoyin Serpent bloodline's second transition begins!] [Beep! Host has gone into deep sleep. Commencement of reformation of Kemoyin's Bloodline within body.] [Detected unknown composition in Host's body! Permission to dispel substances... Countdown: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1!] [Beep! No authorization from Host, unable to dispel! Entering observation mode! Recording data...] [Beginning of alteration of heart. Rate of completion: 1%, 2%, 15%, 30%, 51%...] [Strengthening of Host's bloodline. Innate spell, Kemoyin's Scales strengthened!]

[Kemoyin's Scales: Forms a layer of defensive scales on host's body, has an instant effect. Physical defense: 35 degrees. Resistance to magic: 40 degrees. Consumption: 1 spiritual force, 1 magic power every 6 hours.] [Measured large rise in Host's stats in multiple areas. Collecting data...]

[Beep! Collection of data completed, converting into numerical values...]

Leylin found his stats being refreshed.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 20.1, Agility: 13.4, Vitality: 25.7, Spiritual Force: 75.9, Magic Power: 75 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 89%. Status: Heart remodelling, progress: 61%]

The heart was an important organ that produced the blood of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Through the remodelling of the heart, ancient Warlocks obtained vitality and the ability to produce blood as powerful as that of the Kemoyin Serpent.

With the scanning of the A.I. Chip, Leylin could clearly see a purplish red colour constantly extending from his heart.

Wave after wave of power and blood was transported to all parts of his body.

Along with the throbbing of his heart, the last few digits of the numbers that represented his spiritual force, vitality, elemental essence conversion constantly increased.

“Even before my heart is completely remodelled, the rise in my stats is still increasing. How terrifying...”

Leylin mumbled to himself.

His current stats were comparable to a peak rank 1 Magus, and in terms of vitality, he exceeded them by a fairly large amount.

He could feel a strength that he had never experienced!

Pak! Leylin supported his weight with his hands, and a deep palm print was indented onto the rock at the bottom of the pool.

His entire body bounced, and he jumped out of the pool.

Peng peng!

Under his feet, fine cracks in the rock extended like spider webs.

“After the increase in my vitality, the density of my body has also increased. I’ll need to train again so that I can control the strength I now possess.”

Seeing the damage he had unwittingly caused, he smiled wryly.

He found a random piece of black clothing in his bag and wore it, and then snapped his fingers.

Weng weng!

The defense spell formation around ceased operation and two black figures arrived like a hurricane. They knelt before Leylin and said, “Master!”

“In the time I’ve been asleep, has there been any strange happenings?” Leylin asked indifferently.

Number 2 and Number 3 shared a glance, and Number 2 took the initiative and held out a pendant that looked like a book.

“In the time that Master has been asleep, everything has been quiet. The five specimens are still unconscious, though Master’s secret imprint has been flashing constantly. Without Master’s approval, we did not dare answer...”

“Oh?”

Leylin took the pendant and flipped to a page with an imprint with a strange smile on it. Under the smiling face, there were rows of communication requests, but since Leylin had been in the process of transitioning his bloodline, he naturally did not bother answering them.

He tapped on the smiling face, and string of Dark elemental energy particles shimmered.

“Tsss...” Similar to the static in radios due to bad signals a noise sounded, and the voice of the old man in Leylin’s team could be heard.

“My lord, is that you? Please forgive me. Due to the issue of signals in the secret plane, I can only contact you through the headquarters’ signal tower.”

“Cut the nonsense. What do you need?” Leylin asked.

“My lord... In the time you have not been around, our Hunting Zone 3 was attacked by a peak rank 1 Magus by the name of Marb. He was like a mad dog, and as long as someone appeared in front of him, whether an acolyte or an official Magus, they would be killed. He even announced your name and said that if you did not appear, this situation would continue... Bat and Crow have already died in his hands...”

Chapter 228: Chase

Leylin could hear the hint of fear in the old man's voice.

Bat and Crow were both Leylin's subordinates, and now that both had been killed, it would be hard to deliver this news to Four Seasons Garden.

"Lord Caesar has already spoken and given you a time limit of ten days. Within that time, you'll have to solve this problem, or else..."

"Or else?" Leylin sounded very calm.

The old man, on the other hand, was so terrified that even his voice trembled. "He will seize you on the grounds that you neglected your duties!"

"Oh!" He expected anger from Leylin, but all he saw was Leylin nodding slightly, "Tell him I understand!"

Next, Leylin closed the imprint's connection.

"Marb, is it?" Behind his eyes, he seemed to see that crazy metallized old geezer again.

That Marb must have received news about him being in charge of Hunting Zone 3 and had thus taken action.

Leylin flippantly made a decision.

Though Thousand Meddling Hands, the organisation of which Giant was a member, wanted to solve the conflict between Leylin and the Lilytell family, he wanted none of that.

From his perspective, since they had already become enemies, it was better to completely eliminate them.

Besides, the current Marb thought nothing of Leylin.

If, before the second bloodline transition, Leylin only had a chance to kill his opponent with the help of Number 2 and Number 3, he was now confident that in a fight, he could definitely destroy his opponent! Marb wouldn't even have the chance to escape.

“Let’s go!”

With a shake of his robes, he brought the two Branded Swordsmen out of the cave.

“Awooooo!” Soon after, the silhouette of a huge Venom Wyvern soared up high from the cave...

.....

Zoom!

On the plains, two figures flickered with light as they travelled at speeds that exceeded what could be seen with the naked eye. One chased, while the other fled.

In front was a young woman wearing white robes, her hair slightly curled, and her chest was bursting out of her clothes.

As she moved, her plentiful bosom would constantly jiggle, and paired with this woman’s beautiful face, men had the urge to become lecherous wolves.

It was a pity that her striking beauty had no effect on the Magus behind her.

Xiu xiu! The sound of blades slashing could be heard, and the woman’s face changed, instantly grabbing a chain bracelet around her wrist and flung it behind.

Weng weng!

Luminous green light was emitted from the chain bracelet, and the light converged to form a large web which slammed into the two silver pikes.

Rumble!

Green and silver rays exploded, and the intense explosive airwaves struck the woman’s back.

Rip! Half her robe was torn up, revealing her bright, clean back and delicate skin.

“Stupid old man! I already told you I don’t know any ‘Leylin’. Why did

you keep chasing after me...”

The woman seemed to care little about how she was exhibiting a lot of skin as she produced a scroll. Chia! A pair of translucent, small wings grew behind her.

Each was quite small and formed a semi-heart. They were quite cute and seemed like a decorative item.

Hu-la! The wings shook, bringing with them waves of energy.

However, this lady did not fly but floated gently, as if she had become more buoyant. With her wings flapping behind her, her speed increased, and only then did she have the time to turn back and scold,

“You’re the light Magus in this region, so you must be under Leylin’s protection! How can you not know of him?”

The one that was chasing behind her was a silver-haired old man with metallic ornaments dangling from his forehead to his face. After having seen the woman using the scroll, a ring of silvery, metallic rays was produced.

Hu hu!

Metallic rays constantly sprayed backwards like two silver tassels that drifted behind him.

Crash! His speed increased sharply and was even slightly faster than the woman’s, which caused the distance between them to decrease.

The woman even felt like crying at this point. “I’m just a wandering Magus! Though this is Four Seasons Garden’s territory, we’re still allowed to go in. You’ve really got the wrong person!”

Hearing her explanation, Marb face did not change and he extended his right arm, a silver white metallic bomb appearing in his hand.

His pupils had no life in them and he was unmoved, as if this scantily dressed woman was just a rotting corpse.

With a wave of his hand, the metallic bomb travelled in a beautiful arc and landed in front of the woman’s path.

Boom!

The silver bomb blew up with a loud rumble, fire constantly spreading and metallic debris constantly flying everywhere.

The look on this woman's face was terrible. She was barely able to dodge the aftermath of the explosion. Most of her wings were blown away, and as a result, her speed immediately decreased. She could even feel a bloodthirsty gaze on her basically naked back, as if it was looking at prey. This gaze was different from the lustful looks from many male Magi: it was pure killing intent without the slightest bit of desire.

Hence, she was very clear that the moment she was in his hands, all that awaited her was death. Her pretty face, which was something she had always been proud of, served no purpose in this situation.

"Though you're a wandering Magus, you must belong to some part of Four Seasons Garden. If you die here, it'll be bad for him anyway."

Marb coldly stated. In order to force Leylin out, there was nothing he would not do.

In a place where rank 2 Magi were in charge, with his strength as a peak rank 1 Magus, it was still possible to kill as he liked.

"Damn it! How did I get so unlucky as to meet a lunatic like him!"

The curly-haired woman cursed, desiring to cry as she quickly ran.

"Escaping? Do you think you'll actually succeed?"

Marb, who was behind her, gathered a silver fluid in his hand again, turning it into a short rod.

He held on to the silver, metallic rod, and pointed it at the woman was fleeing as fast as she could.

Zilala! The front of the metallic short rod split open, and countless little silver steel balls flew out.

Peng peng!

These steel balls fell like rain, dispersed in a circular shape, headed

forward, and blocked all the possible routes that the woman could use to flee.

Ding ding dang dang!

The woman clenched her teeth and a pink defensive layer emerged from her body.

As the silver metallic steel balls struck the defense layer, a heavy thud could be heard.

“Transform!” At this moment Marb, who was behind, shouted coldly, his two hands clawing forward!

Tsss! The steel balls that were hitting the pink layer suddenly melted to form a silver liquid that covered the layer.

Along with Marb’s clawing motion, a formless column of air seemed to strike on the silver liquid, the large strength it had constantly pulled the woman backwards.

Rumble!

Marb clenched his right fist, silver fluid coated his hand, which caused it to become an eye-catching silver colour.

The silver, metallic fist mercilessly struck the pink layer.

The layer was immediately dented to a terrifying extent. As Marb increased the power of his attack, terrifying cracking sounds could be heard.

Finally, under the woman’s desperate gaze, the pink layer was completely shattered by the silver fist, turning into shards that gently fell like butterflies.

“Pu...” With her innate spell broken, the woman paled and as if she had been struck by a hammer and collapsed.

“Damn it! I’m going to stay right here! Just do whatever you want now!”

She watched Marb, and closed her eyes as if in resignation. However, the moment she closed her eyes, her legs spread open and her robes ripped

apart, revealing the underwear underneath. The black shadow in the middle was enough to cause anyone to go mad and have the desire to explore further.

“All these little actions at this time?” Marb snickered.

Most Magi liked to enjoy themselves after they advanced and were open about their acts in this area. This was the case for both male and female Magi. But Marb was different! He was already one with metal and had lost the ability to have children. This was why he valued Bosain, his only blood relative so much.

Shortly after, his right hand turned into a chopper!

“Rest in peace! Nobody will save you!”

After having heard Marb’s declaration, hopelessness welled up. She was merely a semi-converted Magus and was probably slightly competent when it came to fleeing. However, in front of Marb, she was like a frail child.

“Am I going to die here? Mentor, I’m sorry I couldn’t complete the task you entrusted to me!”

As the chopper struck down, the woman mumbled under her breath.

“Really?”

Boom!

The pain she anticipated did not arrive and instead, a third person’s voice rang out in the field.

The female Magus opened her eyes to the sight of a giant black serpent, scales flickering with black light as it broke the chopper with a single bite.

After breaking the chopper, the serpent turned into black smoke and floated to the back of a very handsome male Magus. It turned into a ring of black elemental particles and hovered over him like an aureole.

“What a familiar face! This seems to be the person in charge of Hunting Zone 3... Leylin!”

The woman inwardly heaved a sigh of relief, though outwardly she appeared to be indifferent to the situation.

The female Magus then stood up as if nothing had happened and quickly rushed off, covering a large distance in a short period of time.

“By the way, do I know you?” Leylin rolled his eyes inwardly.

This was an area he had jurisdiction over, and all Magi who were in the light faction or any wandering Magi were supposed to greet him. However, Leylin was always indoors and rarely showed himself, so it was natural he did not know this woman.

However, if she were to die here, it would put a mark on his record, so he decided not to bicker with her about it.

Leylin’s full concentration was now on Marb.

Chapter 229: Determination

After seeing Leylin, Marb's gaze, which was as sharp as knives, was fixed on Leylin.

"So... You've finally appeared, Leylin!"

Marb spoke softly, but the coldness and determination were apparent in his voice, causing the female Magus nearby to break out in cold sweat,

In their previous battle, Marb had witnessed Leylin's power and the rate at which he grew stronger. Fear and regret crawled around and constantly gnawed at his insides like ants.

He regretted it! He regretted not deploying more manpower to the Great Canyon Margaret and thoroughly eliminating Leylin there!

Now, Leylin had already grown stronger and was quickly becoming the Lilytell Family's worst nightmare.

In the beginning, he had only just advanced to a rank 1 Magus, but now, he was capable of fighting on equal grounds with Marb. In the entire Magus history of the south coast, this was a rate of improvement that only the cream of the crop had.

Presently, Marb could still suppress his opponent, but even he himself had no confidence in being able to do so in the future.

By that time, Leylin would definitely destroy the entire Lilytell Family!

Marb did not want to be one responsible for his family's death. Hence, in this period of time, he was like a madman, looking for traces of Leylin.

He did not even hesitate to anger a rank 2 light Magus as he slaughtered a large number of Magi in the light Magi zone.

Finally, he had forced Leylin to come out.

Marb stared straight at Leylin, as if afraid that at the slightest blink, Leylin would escape once again and disappear.

"It's been a long time! I've been looking for you for a long time..." Marb mumbled under his breath.

“I’ve waited quite some time. This really has to end soon!” Leylin clasped his hands behind his back and spoke.

This indifference obviously caused Marb to become suspicious. The current Leylin’s aura was even more difficult to make sense of, and even he was unable to accurately judge Leylin’s strength.

However, in order to force Leylin to make an appearance, he had no other choice!

“Die!” Marb suddenly made his move as he roared.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

In an instant, he turned into pure metal, rays converging in front of his chest and spell formation that emitted brownish yellow light.

“Metal transformation! Gravity spell formation!”

Fully aware that Leylin was no easy target, Marb used his trump card right away.

Weng Weng!

A ring of brownish yellow light extended across the entire area.

Wave after wave of a tearing force from the core of the earth descended onto the area.

“Gravity times twenty!” Marb’s eyes turned a pure silver hue as he roared.

Rumble! The brownish yellow colour immediately spread, and a tearing force that was ten times stronger than before exploded from beneath the ground.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The surface of the ground peeled off, and moles, ants, and other tiny animals were immediately ripped apart and turned into blood mist!

“Lunatics! They’re all lunatics!”

That female Magus was right at the edge of the spell formation, and she instantly lay on the ground, her skin constantly breaking. Blood flowed

copiously, and she was quickly dyed crimson.

“Are you kidding? How can I die from the aftershocks of a Magi battle?”

The female Magus gritted her teeth and broke a pendant around her neck.

This usually simple task was made much more difficult due to the times twenty gravitational force.

In reality, if not for her being an official Magus and having remodelled her body such that it became stronger, she would have been blown up into blood mist like those animals.

Chi!

After breaking the pendant, a green light engulfed the female Magus' body.

All her wounds were instantly healed, and if not for the bloodstains that were left on her body and clothes, it would be impossible to tell that she had been injured.

The green light travelled across her body, and she could immediately feel the effects of the increased gravity lessening. She quickly used her four limbs and crawled out of the area that the brownish-yellow gravity spell formation affected.

Bo!

After leaving the spell formation and feeling the gravity return to normal, she heaved a hefty sigh of relief and stood up.

“That was much too terrifying! As expected, it's impossible for us semi-converted Magi to interfere in battles between rank 1 Magi who are at the peak.”

Boom! Boom! Boom!

At this moment, the sound of metal clashing against metal produced ear-piercing sound waves.

As if bitten by a snake, the female Magus took seven steps back and

glanced at the middle of the spell formation. At the center, there were two human figures that had slammed into each other.

In their surroundings, whether they were large trees or rocks, all were reduced to powder once they were brushed past.

“This is too dangerous!”

The female Magus’ expression changed, and she immediately fled further until the two Magi were on the verge of disappearing from her line of sight. Only then did she halt her steps.

“It should be fine here... right?”

Though this was what she told herself, the Wind elemental energy particles around her feet did not dissipate as she made preparations to leave if she saw the need to.

Bam!

Covered in a layer of black scales, Leylin struck Marb’s curved, metallic knife.

Sparks flew, and the clash produced an ear-piercing sound, causing the area around them to quake. There were even some black cracks around them that slowly extended outwards.

Ping pang! At this moment, the sound of metal breaking sounded from the middle.

The two figures that had been fiercely fighting quickly retreated.

Leylin swung his arms, and in his hand was the sharp tip of a blade! In the fight just now, Leylin had actually used brute force and broken one of Marb’s blades!

At this moment, the tip of the blade was still wriggling about and had transformed into multiple metallic teeth that were biting at Leylin’s palm.

Ka-cha!

The metallic teeth bit at the scales and produced crisp sounds, but there was not a trace left on Leylin’s hand.

When the bloodline transitioning had occurred, Leylin's innate spell formation, Kemoyin's scales, had also powered up. Its physical defense and resistance to magic had risen by more than 30 degrees. With the added power from Leylin's magic, Marb's metallic weapons were now unable to hurt Leylin.

"Hm? How dare you resist!"

Leylin furrowed his brows, and immediately after, the muscles on his right arm bulged out. More than 20 degrees of strength were displayed!

Weng!

Clenching his fist, a miserable shriek of someone at death's door could be heard from the space between Leylin's fingers.

Leylin then opened his right hand and threw a few bits of metal that had clearly become dented out of shape, and thus become useless, onto the floor.

As Leylin had crushed the metal, Marb had trembled slightly, as if he had been wounded. With a liquid metallic body, Marb's spirit was spread out evenly throughout his body. The moment Leylin completely destroyed the liquid metal in his hands, a part of Marb's spirit had died as well.

"You're-You're actually completely fine! This entire area actually has twenty times the usual gravity!"

Seeing that Leylin was completely fine, Marb's face was filled with disbelief.

Just ten or so days ago, he had used this spell and caused Leylin to have no choice but to flee. However, currently, Leylin was actually so nimble even with the effects of the gravity spell formation. This situation caused Marb, who had recently experienced the pain of losing part of his spirit, to become terrified.

Though he was aware of Leylin's talent, Marb realised that the rate at which he improved was far above his expectations!

"Gravity?" Leylin looked at the brownish-yellow spell formation and

smirked.

Within his body, a transparent energy membrane emitted a faint purplish red colour, protecting the most vulnerable organs in his body.

This was the defensive ability that the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's bloodline had brought to him. In addition, even if this membrane was not activated, just his vitality of 25.7 was enough to withstand this level of gravity. After all, the sturdiness of his body was working up to the same level of hardness as the body of the ancient Giant Kemoyin Serpent.

"Today will be your doomsday!" Marb was stern and resolute.

"Twenty-nine times gravity!" He roared fiercely, and his body was engulfed by a layer of brownish-yellow ring of gravitational force.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

A gravitational force that was even more tremendous descended and even Leylin could feel the pressure and the increase in his weight.

However, the one who got the worse end of the deal was Marb himself.

Right after sending out the attack, the sound of porcelain breaking could be heard from his body.

Like a spider web, numerous cracks emerged all over his body.

"Even if I am to bet on the Lilytell name and sacrifice my life, I must kill you here!" Marb looked slightly craze as he spoke.

"A fight to the death?"

Leylin's expression became serious. Though he had already gone through the second bloodline transition and his strength had surpassed that of a rank 1 Magus, he was not yet a rank 2 Magus!

Facing a Magus who was also at the peak, even he had to be extra careful.

Crack! Crack!

Chilling sounds were produced as Marb's metallic body suddenly increased in size, his muscles bulging as his body expanded.

In the blink of an eye, Marb transformed from a regular old man to a metallic, burly man who was over five meters tall.

On the surface of his body was a luster that was unique to metal. The cracks were even more massive, and it looked as if his new form might collapse at any moment.

Leylin's eyes flashed as he felt the immense, unstable energy waves of elemental particles from Marb's transformed body.

"You want to take me down even if it means your own death? Dream on!"

Leylin quickly retreated, and at the same time, he chanted a few syllables.

Rumble!

Countless black fireballs emerged from the shadows on the ground, hovering in the air.

The latent fireball, which had already been overwhelmingly powerful, now had an even more terrifying might of 60 degrees with the added bonus from Leylin's current elemental essence conversion!

This was practically the limit of the power that a rank 1 Magus could possess. Under the might of the black fireball, the soil melted and turned into something akin to the crystalline particles of porcelain and glass.

Chapter 230: Slain

“Latent Fireball!”

Leylin raised his right arm and hundreds of small black fireballs fused in front of him, till they were about the size of a human head. The black in the middle was even more intense, giving it a profound air as if it could suck in human spirits.

Under the intense flames that were of a high temperature, even the brownish-yellow gravitational rays began to show signs of instability, constantly retracting and extending.

Facing the giant in front of him, Leylin’s expression was cold.

The latent fireball soared through the sky as if passing through space, and it appeared in front of the metallic giant in an instant.

The black fire’s high-temperature force field caused the metallic giant to sway slightly, liquid metal constantly melting and dripping onto the ground.

In the face of such a terrifying attack, Marb steeled himself and grabbed on to his right arm!

Ka-cha!

The ear-piercing sound of bones breaking sounded, and Marb himself actually tore off his own arm.

The half-complete metallic arm that he tossed away showed signs of melting into the air and then turned into an oval metal ball. It then collided with the black fireball!

Rumble!

Bright rays of light unceasingly spread out, and at the centre, there was a black and silver-white light that was constantly squirming... devouring...

Even though Marb had tried to increase the distance between them as best as he could, he was still affected by the energy waves. Ka-cha! The gravity spell formation at his chest immediately cracked.

Pak!

The brownish-yellow gravity spell formation simply collapsed, and the gravity immediately went back to normal.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Explosions sounded one after another like beans exploding.

Just ten seconds later, the entire ground had been levelled, and even a large portion of the earth had been blown off.

At the centre was a gigantic pit that was so deep that one could not see the bottom.

After the ash and dust had somewhat dispersed, Leylin came to the side of the pit. Seeing the black flames that were still burning, he asked aloud, "Dead yet?"

Shua!

A silver-white figure immediately cut through the curtain of ash and appeared before Leylin.

"Marb?!" Producing an expression of pure shock, he quickly backed away!

"Ah! Ah! Ah!" Marb's current condition was very pitiful. Not only had he lost his right arm, even his chest and thigh had injuries that were so deep one could see the bone.

This was especially so for the injury above his waist. It looked as if he was on the verge of being broken into two.

If this were an ordinary human or even an official Magus, they would find it difficult to survive, let alone go on the offense with such dangerous injuries.

But Marb was evidently different. Liquid metal unceasingly flowed and covered several areas, forcefully patching up his body.

Upon seeing Leylin, silver light that seemed to have turned solid shot out of his eyes.

Bang!

Two metal bombs behind his back exploded, the force instantly acting on his back.

Using this method, he was able to catch up to Leylin.

“We shall perish together!” Marb pounced forward.

While in midair, his entire body dispersed and turned into a silver white curtain.

The metallic curtain seemed to have a life of its own as it bundled Leylin within, leaving behind his head on the outside.

“Hm? An interesting attack! Is this your final attack?” Leylin watched the silver liquid metal wrapped around him like a cocoon, his expression cool and not the least bit flustered.

Gulu! Gulu!

A large amount of liquid metal gathered at Leylin’s shoulder, turning into the face of an old man.

“For the family! For Bosain! Metal will ultimately be destroyed...” The old man looked deranged and looked as if he was planning to die for a just cause.

“By the way... do you mean to die together with that puppet?”

Just as Marb was about to self-destruct, a voice lazily resounded from the other end of the battlefield.

Marb turned around in disbelief, and immediately caught sight of another Leylin that had suddenly appeared. He looked to be mocking the old man as he sized him up.

“You must have forgotten, but I am a Magus specialising in Dark elemental energy particles. For us, making a shadow clone is a piece of cake.”

While Leylin spoke, the “Leylin” that Marb had bound, began to transform in a bizarre manner.

The entire body became black and turned into a bundle of black shadows.

“No!” A pair of silver-white hands reached out from the curtain as Marb yelled, trying to get away from the clone.

“It’s too late!” Leylin exclaimed indifferently, with even some pity in his voice.

Shua Shua Shua!

The large lump of shadows that had Marb surrounded suddenly produced countless black tendrils that engulfed Marb.

Marb bellowed as large numbers of fine, rotating knives emerged from his body.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha! Sparks flew as the blades and tendrils made contact.

However, this time, the durability of the shadow tendrils had increased in might by a large margin, and the silver-white blades eventually got stuck. Some even snapped.

“Goodbye, Marb!”

His expression was strange as he watched Marb, who was completely bound by the shadow tendrils.

Next, he raised his arm, and then clenched his fist!

Boom!

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”Is it over?”

The female Magus from before had escaped far, far away due to her fear of the aftershocks from the battle. Only after it ended did she dare to return while cowering.

It was not that she did not want to escape, but if Marb was the one who won, it would be impossible for her to escape with her current speed. Hence, it would be better to take the chance and return. If Leylin and Marb were able to heavily injure each other, she could render some assistance

too! This would ultimately benefit her!

“Or perhaps... the two of them perished together? If that’s the case, all their possessions will belong to me! Hahaha...”

At the thought of picking up loot from two mighty people, the female Magus began to laugh aloud a little neurotically.

“My apologies, but you’ll have to be disappointed!”

Next, Leylin’s voice was heard and the female Magus’ maniacal laughter suddenly stopped like a duck who had its throat gripped.

“It’s you! That Leylin who caused me to be chased after...”

The female Magus commented lightly, but quickly changed her words, “Oh! No, I mean Magus Leylin!”

As he watched this female Magus, who seemed to be much too comfortable in this situation, Leylin shook his head and had no intentions of chatting with her.

“Hunting zones are still quite dangerous. If you want to gather resources, it’s better to head to the other zones.”

Leylin turned and left after he spoke.

“Hey! Wait! Where’s that Magus called Marb? Did you chase him away?” Only now did the female Magus react.

With the fear from before still lingering in her heart, she looked around as if afraid that Marb would appear at any moment.

“Marb? He’s right here!”

Leylin waved, showing her the huge lump of metal in his hand.

“Hm?” The female Magus gazed at the item in Leylin’s hand with astonishment.

That was a large piece of silver, metallic ore. At the beginning, she had assumed Leylin had found some materials and ignored it.

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However, upon closer inspection, there were a few strange depressions and protruding areas on the surface, like a... human face?!

After comparing the eyes and nose, the female Magus fell back three steps, "It's Marb! You killed him?"

Such an unusual reaction actually threw Leylin off.

"He's a dark Magus. As a Magus from the hunting team, isn't it normal to kill him?"

"Were.... were you dropped on the head as a child? I-no! What!"

Too confused, she began to stutter.

"That's a peak rank 1 Magus! Peak! No matter where you go, someone with that level of strength is definitely of a high status and has an extraordinary battle power. It wouldn't take more than one attack from him to kill off newly-advanced Magi! And you... you actually..."

She peeked at the piece of metal in Leylin's hand in disbelief, fear apparent while she glanced at Leylin.

Leylin smiled nonchalantly.

In the south coast, rank 2 Magus usually did not make themselves known. Hence, peak rank 1 Magi were the strongest powers out there.

Now, a rank 1 Magus at his peak who was considered the strongest out there, had died by his hand! If news of this travelled out, it would definitely cause a huge stir.

If this was the Leylin from before, he might even try his utmost to conceal this matter.

However, after his second bloodline transition and the sharp increase in his power, things had changed!

This was an unrivalled confidence in himself! So what if news of his battle achievements was circulated? With his current strength, it was enough for him to take care of himself and cause anyone who had designs on him to suffer miserably!

"Awooooo!"

At this moment, a huge Venom Wyvern circled the area briefly and then descended.

It roared loudly and then used its huge head and nuzzled Leylin, trying to get a good response from him.

"This is... is this that legendary Venom Wyvern? How valiant, I like it..."

Her eyes shone like stars, "Handsome! Can you give me a ride?"

Leylin shot her a glance.

To be honest, this female Magus did not look half bad, especially in terms of her figure. In addition, she had not mended her clothes that had been damaged while she was fleeing, thus revealing a whole lot of skin.

Ordinarily, and in a situation where he had time to spare, Leylin was not against playing around with her.

But this was the secret plane! He was still being pressured by both the dark and light Magi factions. It would be a wonder if he was in the mood for this sort of thing.

"Boring!"

Leylin indifferent uttered a word and then jumped onto the back of the Venom Wyvern.

"Awoo..." The Venom Wyvern bellowed at the female Magus as if trying to demonstrate its power and spread its wings, flying off.

"Tsk! Such a petty man! It's not as if I'll die without you around!"

Waiting till the Venom Wyvern's figure complete disappeared into the horizon, she fiercely made a rude gesture in Leylin's direction.

Chapter 231: Nefarious Filthbird

At headquarters, in the hunting team's administrative zone.

Thump! A huge Venom Wyvern descended from the sky and created two large depressions as its feet touched the ground.

A black shadow flickered, and a robed Magus jumped off the back of the Wyvern.

"My Lord! My Lord!" An old Magus saw the Venom Wyvern, his eyes brightening as he approached them.

"Old man! We'll need to have some words about you escaping at the last minute!"

Leylin couldn't be bothered to deal with him and entered the hall.

"Vice Team leader! Lord Caesar is looking for you!" Two hunting team Magi came before Leylin and bowed slightly, their manners impeccable.

Though Leylin had no real power in front of Caesar, ordinary members like them were small fry. Those who had offended him the other time were still in isolation! Hence, these members were extremely respectful to Leylin, or at least on the surface.

"Great timing, I was just about to look for him!"

Leylin nodded slightly.

Ka-cha! The door opened, revealing Caesar's figure behind the office desk. The two Magi who had escorted him here quickly left.

"Magus Leylin! You're just in time. Regarding the previous mission..." Before Caesar even spoke, a huge metallic piece was firmly thrown onto the table.

"It's done!"

On this huge silver white metal, there were indents that formed an old, wrinkled face.

"Metallic lifeform?" Caesar was slightly suspicious, but at the thought of

something, his eyes suddenly opened wide.

“I need to inspect this!”

After speaking, Caesar took the metallic sculpture and jogged out of the office, leaving Leylin alone inside.

Though Caesar had issued this mission before, not in his wildest dreams could he have expected Leylin to actually complete it. After all, Marb was a Magus on the same level as him!

However, Leylin had given him something that looked like Marb’s head. How could this not astonish him?

In that moment, Caesar even had the suspicion that Leylin had brought him brought a random head to escape punishment.

Creak! Ten minutes later, the door opened once more.

Caesar appeared in front of Leylin, but his expression was dark, with even hints of shock in his face.

“I didn’t think you would actually be able to do it...” Caesar could not conceal the shock and curiosity in his eyes.

“If it’s possible, could you share the process of your mission with me? You know, as the hunting team leader, it’s necessary that I know about the entire process and then give rewards accordingly.”

Caesar spoke indifferently.

“It was very simple...” Leylin unfolded his arms. “After taking on the mission, I was going to look for you but coincidentally saw him heavily wounded, which is how I completed this assignment.”

“Magus Leylin...” Caesar’s face darkened further. “Please speak the truth!”

“That’s what happened! I even brought along a neutral wandering Magus. If there’s anything else you need, you can just ask her.”

Leylin was indifferent.

In reality, as long as one was not completely blind, anyone could see this

was an excuse!

But so what? Marb was dead. If Leylin said he was heavily injured, that must be the truth!

As for that female Magus, she was just a semi-converted Magus. How could she tell the state of a peak rank 1 Magus' injuries?

"You..." Caesar's face began to flush.

In that instant, he suddenly seemed to have thought of something and his entire body relaxed.

"No matter what, Magus Leylin, you have disposed of a peak rank 1 Magus from the other faction, thus showing your loyalty to Four Seasons Garden. Your bravery will be known by all light Magi, and you might even be recorded down in history..."

Caesar congratulated him with a fake smile.

"Thank you for your compliment, but I want to know more about the substantial rewards I will be getting!" Leylin nodded nonchalantly and then spoke.

For him, having a reputation wasn't all that important. With the prerequisite that the situation would not be unfavourable to him, he was, of course, willing to do some good deeds and obtain a good reputation. However, if there were no advantages and him needing to put in so much effort, making a name for himself in history was just something that only idiots would bother doing!

"Hah..."

Caesar breathed in deeply to calm the fire within his heart and said icily, "There will naturally be rewards. As for any promotions, that will have to wait. However, the contribution points have already been issued to you. 1500 points! Don't worry, the organisation is very strict when it comes to things like this, so I don't have the authority to dock points from you."

Immediately after, Caesar produced a green crystal card from within his robes and passed it to Leylin.

An obscure look flashed past Leylin's eyes as he held out his hand to take the card.

Ka-cha!

That instant he took the card, a slight explosion happened.

Leylin and Caesar's bodies shook for a second, and they immediately sprang apart.

"What a terrifying rate of improvement! Magus Leylin!" His expression held a trace of fear as Caesar looked at Leylin.

Before, he still had the confidence that he could suppress Leylin, but now, after the probing, he found that this Magus who he had looked upon with contempt had already caught up to him and become a mighty peak rank 1 Magus! He might even be stronger than him!

Caesar could not be so casual with Leylin any longer. Leylin's ranking in his heart had already risen to the same level of opponents who were of equal strength as him.

Leylin only gave a slight smile in response to Caesar's exclamation.

He had even concealed a part of the strength of his Warlock blood. If not, Caesar might be completely stunned.

He took his own contribution point card and swiped the green crystal card above it!

Beep! A light flickered and the O on Leylin's own card changed to 1500.

"Alright! Magus Leylin, you may return and take a rest while waiting for news from the Elders." Caesar spoke slowly.

Leylin's transformation made him feel a little uncomfortable. He was currently in need of some time to come up with a counterplan.

"Thank you!"

Leylin stood up and took a small bow, each action revealing an unspeakable sort of elegance.

.....

“Really? His strength exceeds yours?”

In a room made primarily out of plants, Reynold placed the white porcelain cup on the table, a hand supporting his forehead and a finger curling his hair. Another hand was unconsciously striking the table, producing the dull ‘thud’ sounds.

The current Reynold looked like an old man who was not in the best state of mind, but all those who were familiar with him could tell this was him pondering over something deeply.

Caesar stood aside, waiting for the final decision from this elder of the Four Seasons Garden.

“If that’s the case, we’ll give him the position of the head of patrolling at the headquarters!” Reynold thought over this for a long time till the steam from his porcelain cup had vanished, before speaking.

“Alright!” In response, Caesar merely nodded.

“Also, I found out that we might have paid too little attention to that guy... If there’s time, I think I want to meet him.”

Reynold stretched, looking pleased as he glanced at Caesar.

“Don’t you know how rude it is to bother an old man who was planning on taking an afternoon nap?”

“My apologies! I’ll take my leave now!”

Caesar quickly bowed and left, a mysterious grin about his lips.

“Leylin Farlier?”

Behind him, Reynold mouthed this name.

He had naturally taken Leylin’s talent into account. If he was truly sincere about joining Four Seasons Garden and that the value of the item he had gotten from the ruins was not too high, Reynold would not go so far as to do anything dirty and covet his inheritance.

However, from how Leylin had been able to improve his strength so quickly, what he had obtained was definitely not as simple as he had

thought it was.

It was extremely beneficial to the user and was worth the risk for Reynold to take action.

In addition, based on the information he had gathered, ever since Leylin entered Four Seasons Garden, he still had dealings with dark Magi. He was even involved in a few of the large incidents in Nightless City!

This was just intolerable! Any organisation would not put up with the existence of disloyal members!

Though this was just a hypothesis, this was enough reason for Reynold to make his move!

He was an existence that had stepped into the level of rank 2 Magi! The difference between Magi from each rank was like heaven and earth. Even if Leylin received some amazing inheritance, as long as he had not promoted to a rank 2 Magus, he was powerless in front of a true rank 2 Magus.

Just the fact that he could solidify his spiritual force was enough to suppress most rank 1 Magi!

.....

At this point in time, Leylin was oblivious to all this.

He was currently in a laboratory, holding a test tube that contained a grey liquid within. His blue eyes flashed as he constantly scanned the contents.

“The solution that contains a Nefarious Filthbird’s feathers! Rumours have it that the ancient Nefarious Filthbird and Trial’s Eye were nemeses. Its feathers also carried with it the chaos its original body was known for. It is an item that swindlers love.”

The conclusion that the A.I. Chip had was presented in front of Leylin’s eyes.

“Based on the information and simulations, this solution is able to take care of the oath I made with Four Seasons Garden. But what happens

after? The problem I have isn't just with the oath..."

Leylin mumbled to himself, and looked at his stats once more.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 20.1, Agility: 13.4, Vitality: 25.9, Spiritual Force: 76.1, Magic Power: 76 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 90%. Status: Altering heart, progress at 69%.]

"The heart is the location where the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's blood was produced. Through the alteration of the heart, ancient Warlocks obtained similar vitality and abilities to produce blood!"

Chapter 232: Headquarters' Patrolling

Inspector

"A very large increase!" Seeing that in his refreshed data, the progress of his strength and spirit and his elemental essence conversion all had a huge change, Leylin wore a pleased expression on his face.

For an official Magus, making any progress was exceedingly difficult; even for a Magus like Leylin who had a high-level meditation technique, they would need to accumulate a lot of time.

But now, after the second transition of his bloodline, his average data had risen to that of a peak rank 1 Magus'.

And after his heart had been remodelled, it was incessantly stimulating the potential of his body towards a higher evolution.

Only in these past few days, his reformation rate had increased by 8% and this had brought about an amplification in his other data – this was absolutely terrifying!

"If it is like this, then maybe I can..."

Leylin quickly calculated in his mind and after which, his eyes emitted a dangerous beam of light.

This beam was very pure and immeasurable; Leylin's eyes, which were brimming with this beam, felt as if it could even absorb a person's soul.

But, a split second later, Leylin had already hidden this beam deep inside.

"The solvent of the Nefarious Filthbird's feathers?!"

Leylin once again focused his attention on the gray solution and a blue ray of light from the A.I. Chip flashed occasionally as he scanned the test tube, and a large amount of data was being projected in front of Leylin's eyes.

"The Void Hallucination Flowers!" exclaimed Leylin, as he saw the three crystals on the experiment table.

Deeply entrenched within these tiny crystals were white flowers that were so transparent they were almost illusory.

This flower was the principal ingredient in many ancient potions. These had previously been extinct on the south coast. It was unknown from which secret plane did Four Seasons Garden discover this flower. Its value was 50 contribution points.

“Crystal seal, undo!” As he reeled off several complicated words, Leylin pointed his right forefinger at a crystal.

Glug!

A noise like the ripples on a pond could be heard from the surface of those crystals.

The ripple continuously distorted as it extended to the interior of the crystal....when with a Clink! Fizz! – noises like waves rolling and volatile steam evaporating – the solid crystal continuously vaporized into the air. Finally, what was left behind was a delicate, small, white flower that slowly fell onto the surface of the experiment desk.

This exclusive seal removal technique was something that Leylin had obtained from the contribution hall. If he used other magic spells to forcefully remove the seal, though he would be able to effectively remove the seal, the aftermath would be that the material sealed within the crystal would also have perished.

Leylin scrutinised this ancient and precious ingredient.

The Void Hallucination Flower was a very delicate existence; it was the size of a quail egg. Moreover, some veins, like those on a leaf, appeared on the translucent surface of the flower.

This Void Hallucination Flower, the moment it was exposed to the air, it fell down and started to melt.

“This is truly a fragile thing. No wonder that it is now extinct on the entire south coast...”

Leylin muttered this as he used a pair of white tweezers, which he had

prepared for such a situation, and quickly put the flowers inside a blue borneol beaker.

“The properties of the Void Hallucination Flower are very surreptitious. By blending it, one can form 43 different kinds of ingredients. Thus, it was a popular major ingredient of many of the ancient potions...”

Leylin mumbled, and seeing the continuously dissolving white flower inside the beaker, the corners of his mouth curved into a smile.

“Patrolling troops at the Headquarters? What is the position?”

Leylin gaped in amazement at Caesar. After a busy evening within the lab, He had just come out for a well-deserved rest, when he saw the Magus Caesar.

Caesar’s face was all smiles. The vertical third eye in between his brows, which emitted a furtive radiance now appeared to be gentle.

“This was a position personally drafted for you by Chairman Reynold!” Caesar laughed and gave an explanation.

“You know, during wartime, Four Seasons Garden’s rule is that the elders have the authority to set up new posts and this Head of the Patrol of the Headquarters is one which Lord Reynold has specially endorsed for you, Leylin. In theory, in the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, regardless of the headquarters, every branch and hunting zone’s magicians all will be under your supervision...”

“Is that so?” asked Leylin, expressing his skepticism.

This was clearly a troublesome task – it had no clear-cut authority, and only had supervisory power. It seems that in this post, he could manage everything, yet do nothing at the same time and also would be able to offend more people.

After all, all the leading Magi of every branch and every hunting zone were each powerhouses in their own right, how would they listen to orders given by a central supervisor?

It was obvious that this Reynold had thrown an annoying task towards

him!

“Also.... before I came, Lord Reynold also made a private request!” After handing over the appointment letter to Leylin, Caesar brought up yet another matter.

”A private request? What is it about?”

Leylin looked alert; a rank 2 Magus was not someone his current self could contend against.

However, the current him, even if he is unable to defeat his opponent, he still had his means of escape and therefore, he was not particularly afraid.

“Lord Reynold is trying to find some time to talk to you. Of course, this will be private, and is not an order!”

Seeing that although Leylin was beginning to get nervous but still managed to appear calm, a flash of amazement appeared in Caesar’s eyes which he quickly suppressed. He meant to convey this to Lord Reynold.

“A lengthy conversation?” Leylin’s heart throbbed.

It seemed that his recent chain of high-profile actions finally came to the attention of this rank 2 Magus.

However, this was also a part of his plan; thus Leylin nodded and said, “Certainly! I can meet with Lord Reynold. It is my honor to do so...”

“That is good! I shall immediately go and make some arrangements!” Lord Reynold was the overall commander for Four Seasons garden within the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. He handled numerous matters every day and if it were not for Leylin having performed such a meritorious deed, he would not have had the opportunity to see him.

And this time, the meeting was of a private nature, there were many protocols for this. But Leylin need not pay attention to all this; Caesar could arrange for the time and when Caesar calls him, he could go to meet Lord Reynold.

“Thank you very much!” Leylin gave a nod of thanks.

“Don’t mention it! It is nothing!” With his face full of smiles, Caesar,

very quickly, left.

Seeing Caesar disappear into the horizon and finally vanish from his sight, Leylin appeared more and more solemn.

Finally, his expression turned as dark as ominous clouds.

This Reynold, a rank 2 Magus, now seemed to him like a mountain, extending as far as he could see.

“Everything will soon begin!” Leylin whispered...

Inside the merit points exchange centre.

“Hallo, Sir! May I ask if you need to do any transaction?”

Behind a transparent glass window, an employee asked Leylin.

Through the glass, Leylin could see shelves all over, covered with all kinds of precious objects and high-grade information. There were even many magic artifacts and single-use-only scrolls, and also some secret techniques used by Magi.

These secret techniques were the skills and application of spellcasting

These techniques could, often, only be learned by official Magi. After having successfully learned them, they could be used to temporarily increase the magic power, or increase the might of a magic spell to the maximum and the sort.

Leylin had viewed them as the next best thing after high-level meditation techniques.

Even if a Magus's degree of elemental essence conversion was sluggish, he could use these secret techniques and increase his magic power. This was no different to increasing the elemental essence conversion.

“Unfortunately, this was only an exterior item. The body's own strength is the most important!”

But even if the elemental essence conversion and secret techniques can amplify the magic power, this also depended on the original might of the magic spell.

The foundation was sturdy and the growth rate was high; it was the most useful for a peak rank 1 Magus!

If the foundation was not good enough, no matter how high the growth rate was, they would not be able to beat another Magus with a low elemental essence conversion but solid foundation.

All in all, among the spells that increase amplification, the most specialized magic spells can only amplify the basic power by 40%.

And the most amplified power of elemental essence conversion was not greater than approximately 90%.

Be it whatever type of amplification spells, up till now, Leylin hadn't seen any which was capable of providing a 100% or more of power. It was as if there was an invisible wall blocking the steps of the majority of the Magi.

"I am the new Patrolling Inspector from the Headquarters! I believe there is a problem here with the transactions."

Leylin took out the recently received appointment letter and flashed it at the employee. The magical radiance on the letter was a characteristic of a rank 2 Magus and caused a blinding pain to the employee.

"My Lord...."

The employee was dumbfounded; after all this position was really bizarre. It could inspect any activities but in reality, the authority to actually execute anything was not that powerful.

While stalling Leylin, the employee pushed a red button located under the desk.

Leylin noticed this small act, but he smiled and did not do anything about it.

"My Lord! Our transactions here are completely equitable and in keeping with the laws, and it is definitely not"

While the employee was still explaining to Leylin, a translucent shadow took form in front of Leylin.

“I am Pierre! I am in charge of the transaction of merit points. Do you have any problem, the new patrolling inspector, Lord Leylin?”

The shadow's face, on the exterior, looked to be about 50-60 years old, a male. He wore an eyepiece on one eye, and his hair was combed carefully and well-groomed and he wore a dark red colored formal robe, which did not have even a minute crease upon it.

This image caused Leylin to recall the land surveyors and gem appraisers of his previous world.

And, the fact that he knew Leylin's identity so fast show this in-charge Pierre's capabilities of gathering intelligence and his wide network.

“I have my doubts that the exchanges here and the permissions. I need to examine ...” Leylin stated this matter-of-factly.

He deeply understood this authority he owned had an expiry date tagged to it.

It was all the more so, especially when it was a predestined rebellion.

Chapter 233: Swindling

From this inessential role that Reynold had assigned him as the Headquarters' Patrolling Inspector, Leylin could tell that Reynold had designs on him.

Even if it had nothing to do with the suspicion of him being a dark Magi, the fact that he increased his strength so quickly had caused Reynold to be wary of him.

In this situation, no matter how hard he tried to keep himself low-key, it was useless.

Since it was like this, why should he not use that bit of power he possessed and gain some benefits?

After all, before Reynold officially stripped him of his role, his cover as the Patrolling Inspector at the headquarters was still able to intimidate a great number of people. For instance, like this man in front of him, at the merit points exchange centre!

“Are you trying to tarnish my reputation?”

Upon hearing this, the face of the apparition called Pierre darkened, eyes seemingly producing crimson rays.

“No... Not tarnishing it. This is just the usual procedural checks!” Leylin smiled gently.

The instant the words left his mouth, a ring of energy particles exploded between him and Pierre.

Rumble!

Though the two of them had tried their best to suppress the excess waves of energy from their battle, they still attracted the attention of several Magi bystanders.

Pierre took several steps back before re-balancing himself, revealing a shocked expression on his face, “A peak rank 1 Magus! Seems like “Metal Lunatic” Marb really did die by your hands!”

This information had been proved right before him, and he could do little but be in shock.

Just from that short fight, Leylin had revealed a strength that could rival a peak rank 1 Magus!

Based on the information he had gathered, Pierre was almost sure that the Metal Lunatic Marb of the Lilytell family had most certainly died at Leylin's hands.

Goodness! Even Pierre himself was but a peak rank 1 Magus.

A peak rank 1 Magus, Marb, had died at the hands of Leylin. In a situation where a rank 2 Magus did not make his move, a peak rank 1 Magus was already the strongest in the south coast. It was rare that they were taken down. Furthermore, it was only because it had been only a short time since Marb had died so the news did not travel far yet. Otherwise, this would cause a huge commotion in the south coast.

Pierre, who was aware of this news, was even more fearful of Leylin.

"What do you want?" Pierre did not look good.

"Nothing much. I'm just thinking..." Leylin's voice went so soft to the point that he simply closed his mouth and transmitted a message.

Upon hearing his transmission, Pierre's face changed, first flushing as if he had been humiliated to the extreme, and then turning into a look of pondering.

Moments later, Pierre raised his head and glanced at the Magi nearby.

Due to the strange actions by Leylin and him, they had attracted the attention of many surrounding Magi and acolytes. This caused him to come to his final decision.

"This isn't entirely impossible. Come with me!"

The apparition called Pierre disappeared, leaving behind red energy particles turning into various signs that showed him the way.

Upon seeing this, Leylin grinned.

He was aware that even amongst the light Magi, there weren't that many people who were incorruptible.

At the merit points exchange centre, it was a trading place where one could obtain the most profits. It was definitely not a place free of bribery, but if Leylin really wanted something from this place, it would be his last day with his current role as Patrolling Inspector.

However, he had not forced the other party to do anything. He had merely pointed out a few of his requirements and resulted in the other person making a concession.

Uncaring of the strange looks from the Four Seasons Garden Magi, Leylin followed the signs came to a house behind the exchange centre.

In front of the door, a Magus who looked just like the apparition was already in wait. The one who appeared, this time, was a real body, rather than an apparition.

"You're here!" Pierre's face was dark.

Of course, regardless of who it was, nobody would be in a good mood if someone came up and tried to take advantage of them.

"Hn!" Leylin briefly nodded his head and did not speak further.

Pierre gave Leylin a meaningful look as if trying to inscribe his appearance to memory, "Come with me!"

Next, without waiting for Leylin, he simply stalked off. Leylin rubbed his nose, and with a smile he followed.

On the way, various seals and defensive layers were seen everywhere, but with Pierre, who was familiar with this area, it was obviously a smooth sailing.

Ka-cha!

Pierre produced a black copper key and opened a large door, which was full of runes on the surface.

Rumble! In an instant, the sparkles of various treasures and crystal balls, as well as the smells of many precious ingredients filled Leylin's eyes.

In front of him was an impressive, huge storage warehouse. Various precious resources were placed in front of him, so much so that it seemed they were endless.

“With my authority, I can only open this secondary warehouse to you. Also, I can give you a 40% discount. That is the bottom line!”

Pierre was resolute. From his wounded expression, it was obvious that these were his limits. Hence, Leylin did not press on.

“Alright, alright! I won’t be too difficult to you.”

Leylin spoke without sincerity and walked into the warehouse.

The way Leylin treated this place like it was his own home had Pierre grinding his teeth in annoyance, but he did not dare say anything else.

To be honest, there was something here that would result in him being apprehended if it was ever found out. He would be stripped of his position and would even face punishment.

Compared to this, letting Leylin taking advantage of the situation wasn’t much.

Leylin walked past piles of potions and ingredients that were worth thousands of merit points, looking rather calm.

For him, there were very few items that he coveted.

In addition, what he was in urgent need of were methods to increase his battle power. Hence, a few offensive techniques were of more value to him.

Leylin’s footsteps did not stop until he came to the side of a wooden frame with an intellectual crystal ball on it.

“Research” “Experiments” “Secret techniques”

At the side of the frame, there were all sorts of detailed inscriptions that recorded all sort of intellectual-type information and what they included, making it easier for Leylin to search through.

He came in front of the column that had secret techniques.

“High energy Eagle Eye!” “Dog nose transformation!” “Liver transplantation!” “Fire elemental negative energy layering spell!”

All sorts of secret techniques, with some that even Leylin had not heard of, were displayed before him. He was almost getting dizzy with the sheer amount there was.

“Excuse me! Can you deactivate the defense formation? I want to take a look at the content!”

Though Leylin sounded apologetic, his actions were nothing but that.

“You...” Pierre was speechless but still headed over, fished out a token from his robes and flashed it at the frame.

Weng!

A milky-white magical light was emitted from the token, and soon after, the spell defense formation around the frame deactivated.

“With my authority, you’ll at most be able to see the first one-third of the contents. Any more than that and the spell formation will start working again, and I have no way to do anything about that...” Pierre spread his hands while he explained.

“That’s enough!” Leylin nodded, taking the information that recorded the way to have eagle’s eyes and sped through it.

On the surface, he was skimming over the crystal ball and trying to find the information he wanted, but in actuality, the A.I. Chip was hard at work in his brain, recording down all the information he read through.

There he only had access to a third of the information, this was already enough for the A.I. Chip. Based on that, it could deduce the rest of the information. It was just a matter of time.

Half an hour later, Leylin had already looked through all the information in the intellectual crystal ball. The A.I. Chip had benefited greatly as well, having recorded down a lot of precious information.

“Give me this projective technique, Dire bear transmutation and bloodline modulation theory!”

Of course, the A.I. Chip was not able to infer all information in its entirety. Behind the clauses that the A.I. Chip came up with, there was a list of ingredients that could not be deduced.

Leylin looked around and, based on his needs, asked for a few more items.

“Not counting the miscellaneous items, the total comes to a thousand merit points! With the discount, it is 600 merit points!”

With this, he was able to save 400 merit points. Even if the team leader Caesar were to come, Leylin estimated that he would at most get a discount of 20%.

However, he had been able to get a 40% discount on any of the items in this treasure house!

“And this, this... that... give me one of all that!”

Leylin very quickly spent the 1500 merit points he had just obtained.

Hours later, Leylin left the area under Pierre’s gaze as if he had met a calamity.

“What a great harvest!” Leylin rubbed his sack that was full to the brim and sighed in contentment.

“If only I could come here once a day!”

Leylin was aware that this was just delusional thought.

If he did this once more, it would backfire on him and result in a huge counter attack from those who had a vested interest in the items. He was so arrogant, and that was only because he had no intentions of sticking around in Four Seasons Garden.

If not, in a light Magi organisation, this would cause public anger. There were plenty of ways to kill him!

“After fishing up all the benefits from the merit points exchange centre, there’s still somewhere else...”

Looking at the vast Eternal River Plains’ secret plane and the steady

stream of Magi constantly entering, his lips twitched and he began to give a bright smile.

Days later, tales of Leylin were spread throughout.

“Metal Terminator!” “Greedy Dragon!” These were his newest nicknames.

Metal Terminator referred to his battle achievement of killing off the Metal Lunatic, Marb! It was in this battle that Leylin had openly killed a peak rank 1 Magus, thus setting the foundation for his reputation as a powerhouse.

As for ‘Greedy Dragon’, this referred to the series of ‘robbing’ activities he had done without restraint.

Whether it was at the merit points exchange centre, the defense team, garrison, and even a few Magi divisions and zones, they had all been places he had pillaged and extorted from shamelessly!

To be honest, the greediness of Magi truly exceeded his expectations. In all the areas he had checked on, none were upstanding people.

No matter how well the accounts had been done, with the terrifying abilities of the A.I. Chip, nothing escaped his eye.

Chapter 234: Using the Solvent

Under the circumstances, each division could do little but pinch their noses in distaste while they did as Leylin wanted. However, his reputation had gone straight to the gutters and had gained him the reputation of 'least welcomed' at all divisions.

To be honest, when he had first received news of this, Leylin was a little surprised but found it very amusing.

In the Magus world, strength was to be respected. Reputation wasn't entirely useless, but it only applied to those within the same ranks of strength.

As long as he continued to improve his strength, after he advanced to become a rank 2 Magus, these people would stick onto him like dogs, wagging their tails and lamenting that they had not let Leylin taking more advantage of them.

"Magus Leylin! Greedy Dragon! Lord Reynold would like to see you tomorrow at 7pm. Please be prepared."

Caesar expressionlessly announced in front of Leylin and left.

"This is a little earlier than expected. Have I finally angered the heavens?" Leylin laughed without fear.

He did not take his position as the patrolling inspector seriously, and on top of that, he had been doing all sorts of things. It was no surprise that all of the Four Seasons Garden viewed him as an enemy and opposed him.

If he did not make any preparations, he was going to die!

This was definite. After all, Leylin himself was not completely innocent, and investigations would spell his downfall.

In addition, the inheritance from the Great Magus Serholm would definitely attract the attention of rank 2 Magi!

In the Magus World, there were all sorts of spells that could be used to detect lies and test one's spirit.

The reason the Magi here did not use them was because they were light Magi and did everything in sequence. However, this was wartime! Everything was about power. Furthermore, there were also a lot of mysteries about Leylin.

Currently, if any of these spells were used against him, he wouldn't even have the chance to explain himself!

Actually, Leylin had long since suspected that the Four Seasons Garden had discovered his activities with the dark Magi. Though he left no proper evidence, there might have still been some traces left behind.

If not, why would he, a high-level potion master who was young, talented, and sure to be held in high regard wherever he went, be assigned to this place to fight?

“But this is enough.”

Leylin's lips quirked in a slight smile.

He had already been mentally prepared to be found out. After all, Magi had too many unknown methods, and he had no way to guard against everything.

Being able to have up to 2 years and allow his bloodline to transition, as well as being able to accumulate a large amount of resources and knowledge, had Leylin feeling quite satisfied.

“It looks like it's time to fall out with them!”

Leylin looked apathetic. Theoretically speaking, he was the one who had betrayed the Four Seasons Garden, but this was for his own sake! For benefits! To chase his dreams! He was not going to turn back from this route.

“Alright! I'll use this!” Leylin turned over to the palm of his hand, revealing a well-preserved test tube in his right palm.

Within the test tube was a grey solvent. It was a type of grey that people would find disgusting, and just a glance at it would cause one to feel dizzy.

“The solvent of the Nefarious Filthbird's feathers! Tests have been

conducted on it. In order to break away from Four Seasons Garden and perhaps even become enemies, it's necessary to dispel the constraints of the contract witnessed by the Trial's Eye!"

Leylin stared hard at the test tube in his hand, looking unusually excited.

He snapped his fingers, and in an instant, the room was shrouded in a layer of faint yellow light. Leylin then carefully removed the covering from the mouth of the test tube.

Tsss! A grey gas floated out of the test tube, and upon contact with the air, the solvent of the Nefarious Filthbird's feathers produced innumerable tiny bubbles and began to evaporate violently.

"Ugh!" Leylin pinched his nose tightly. "What a terrifying stench!"

He had taken in just a small breath, yet he was already on the verge of fainting from the smell. It was just too stinky! Even with his vitality of over 20, it was almost unbearable for him.

The Nefarious Filthbird was originally a congelation of all of the filthy things in the world, and its feathers held traces of its filthiness.

In actuality, the solvent made from the feathers did not get its power from the feathers themselves, but from the projection of the Nefarious Filthbird's strength onto this part of its body!

The ancient Nefarious Filthbird was an existence that was the archenemy of the Trial's Eye! Not only had their battles affected the Magus World, they also affected several other large-scale areas.

There were traces of them present everywhere in legends and myths.

"Filth! Chaos! How did these characteristics come about, and how did they work?"

A curiosity that could not be concealed appeared in Leylin's eyes. Whether it was the chaotic characteristic of the Nefarious Filthbird or the fairness of the Trial's Eye, they were very much different from the spells in the Magus World. They were more like a type of regulation, which gave Leylin the strongest urge to find out even more.

Magi usually liked to research about all types of strange phenomenon and strengths, as well as to try to find ways to make that power theirs.

In terms of trying to chase after the truth, Magi were similar to the researchers and scientists in Leylin's previous world.

"It's a pity that this sort of thing can only be approached by those who are at least Morning Star Magi!"

Whether it was the Trial's Eye or the Filthy Bird, both could traverse through the entire world and weave through terrifying beings. Their existence surpassed that of normal beings, and they had entered a level that Leylin could not hope to even reach for, much less understand.

The current Leylin wasn't even an ant to them; he was probably a little smaller than a speck of dust.

Even if he wanted to offer sacrifices and summon them, he would only see an apparition that lacked power. It wasn't possible to explore and find out more about them.

Even though Leylin was a little disappointed, what he felt was, even more, fire and a stronger desire within.

"One day! One day, I'll reach the peak of the Magus World and make people take note of the other great existences, and chase after the truth and eternity they hold..."

Tsss!

After the volatile grey solvent in the test tube finished its reaction, Leylin's body was engulfed by grey mist.

This mist was unbearably smelly, causing Leylin to feel suffocated.

The grey mist seemed to have a life of its own as it climbed onto Leylin's skin as if trying to find ways to enter his body.

Rumble!

Leylin suddenly felt faint, and his expression changed.

Pak! Pak! Pak! As if provoked, several apparitions of the Trial's Eye

appeared on his body.

These apparitions were mostly only the size of his thumb, and the biggest was as big as his fist. There were a few mysterious threads connected to it that winded around Leylin.

“The power of regulation?” Leylin extended his right hand, trying to touch those threads.

Unsurprisingly, his hands went straight through the threads as if they were thin air.

“These must be the threads from the contract and regulations! The small Trial’s Eye represents the agreement I had with the old witch, while the largest one is the contract I made that was witnessed by the rank 2 Magus, Reynold!”

The largest Trial’s Eye had the thickest threads and was inseparably close to Leylin’s body.

Some part of him gave him the idea that if he went against the contract, these lines would break, and it would end in a result he did not want to even think about.

Tssss tssss!

After witnessing the apparitions of the Trial’s Eye, the fluctuations from the grey mist became more intense. Through an unknown channel, a mysterious piece of information was transmitted to Leylin.

“One feather solvent can only dissolve one contract?” Leylin nodded, and spoke in the ancient Byron language, “I choose this one!” He pointed at the largest Trial’s Eye.

Not only was the ancient Byron language the basis of spellcasting, it even held a mysterious power that allowed all beings with spirits to be able to understand its intended meaning from its words. Hence, it was a language used throughout the Magus world and in other places.

Chi chi!

After receiving Leylin’s answer, the grey mist quickly became denser,

and the chirps of a bird were sounded in the middle.

The coarse chirps of this bird were extremely unpleasant to hear, like the bawling of a woman.

Along with the chirps, the grey mist spread out two wings and turned into a faint, large grey bird in the mist.

“Is this the actual body of the ancient Nefarious Filthbird?” Leylin carefully took down the Filthy Bird’s appearance. However, with the hindrance of the mist, besides the bird’s main appearance, nothing else could be clearly made out.

“Judgement!” “Judgement!” “Judgement!” “Judgement!”

At this moment, as if provoked by the Nefarious Filthbird, the Trial’s Eye image on the surface of Leylin’s body began to vibrate.

Small bolts of lightning were produced around the Trial’s Eye, the void crackling around them as sounds of sacrificial hymns sounded out.

The Trial’s Eye in the middle immediately expanded several times, powerful undulations overflowing as it tried to break through the void to borrow a bit of power from its original body.

“Chii!”

The giant bird in the grey mist extended its wings, where large amounts of grey-black mist emanated.

Filth! Chaos!

Leylin felt dizzy again and was almost unable to tell where he was.

“Chi Chi!” The grey black mist and blue electric currents tried to devour each other, and eventually perished together.

However, it was obvious that there was much more mist than blue lightning, and in a few seconds, it was in an advantageous position.

“Chi Chi!”

Under the shroud of mist, the Trial’s Eye shook wildly and even stopped all attempts at contacting its original body.

At this moment, the large bird in the grey mist soared into the air, and like a predator hunting for food swooped down from midair!

Pop!

With a peck from its grey beak, the apparition of the largest Trial's Eye was pecked out.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha! Ka-cha! The threads that connected Leylin and the Trial's Eye were snapped in twain.

As the threads snapped, Leylin felt his body slouch in relief, with even his spirit feeling a sense of freedom, as if a weight had been taken off of his mind.

Chapter 235: Meeting

“These thin threads must represent my contract with the Four Seasons Garden! Now that they’re completely broken, it must mean that I’ve destroyed my contract with the Four Seasons Garden.”

A hint of glee appeared on Leylin’s face.

Having destroyed his side of the contract, he could reap a lot of benefits! Leylin was now no longer under the constraints of the contract and was free to do anything that might harm the Four Seasons Garden, including brazenly killing their members.

As for Reynold, who represented the Four Seasons Garden, and was the one who Leylin had made a contract with, he had to abide by the regulations stated in the contract. Without evidence, he would not be able to do anything against Leylin!

Also, this method of destroying his end of the contract would not alert Reynold. This was one of the special chaotic characteristics of the Nefarious Filthbird.

Rumble!

The Nefarious Filthbird, which was hovering in mid-air, swallowed the Trial’s Eye down its beak! Leylin could even see a round protrusion at the Nefarious Filthbird’s neck, travelling down and into its abdominal area.

“Chi chi!” After swallowing a Trial’s Eye, the Nefarious Filthbird made joyful screeches and transmitted a message to Leylin.

“Trial’s Eye will eventually perish, and chaos will remain eternal!”

“More! More summons! I will wipe all traces of the Trial’s Eye from you!”

Little pieces of information were transmitted to Leylin and were transformed into a form that Leylin could understand.

“I will do so!” Leylin bowed deeply. Though he had no idea if the other party could really understand his actions, Leylin still had to remain polite

on a superficial level.

The Nefarious Filthbird nodded in a very human way and produced a long, loud cry.

Amidst its terrifying, ear-piercing screeches, the Nefarious Filthbird's body exploded into the grey mist.

The grey colour of the mist gradually faded into the air.

At the same time, Leylin could feel the chaotic attribute that had been surrounding him ever since he had opened the test tube, dissipating.

The Trial's Eye was an existence on the same level as the Nefarious Filthbird! Without the chaotic power that the solution automatically let out, which isolated the area, the probing from the Trial's Eye and the transmissions to Leylin would long since have attracted the Trial's Eye here.

After the Nefarious Filthbird vanished, Leylin sensed some changes within his body.

His contract with Four Seasons Garden was now completely destroyed. Other contracts with the Trial's Eye were still there, but they had no reaction, as though nothing had happened.

"The power of chaos is amazing! The ancient Nefarious Filthbird is truly the mortal enemy of the Trial's Eye! I wonder how the dark Magus behind Giant managed to obtain this solution."

Leylin murmured to himself.

In the south coast, contracts made with the Trial's Eye were very common. They were very trustworthy, and there were almost no cases of them being tampered with.

Besides, the feathers of the ancient Nefarious Filthbird had become extinct over a thousand years ago.

Hence, even Reynold would not imagine that Leylin would use this method to break away from the constraints of the contract.

"This power is truly terrifying!"

Leylin could not help but raise the status of Thousand Meddling Hands in his heart, in awe of the ability of this dark Magus organisation to procure a solution that was already extinct.

“But even in the organisation, there shouldn’t be a lot of this solution...” Leylin was quite sure about this. If not, the Thousand Meddling Hands would have used it a long time ago and wreaked havoc upon the south coast.

Night descended. Though they were within the secret plane, the moonlight was still bright, making it no different from the external world.

At this moment, a black figure donning a cloak that covered his face sneakily crept into Four Seasons Garden’s camp and constantly moved towards the outer areas.

Chila!

At a place where there was a devilish tree that was somehow divided into three parts, the black figure stopped and lit his hand up with crimson flames.

“You’re finally here!”

The surface devilish tree twisted for a moment, and a man’s face appeared on the bark. It suddenly opened his mouth and spoke to the Magus, “Come down from here!”

Tsssla! As the wooden face spoke, a huge hole opened up at the roots of the devilish tree and revealed a pitch-black passageway.

The Magus nodded and quickly walked down.

Boom! After his figure disappeared into the passageway, the entrance immediately closed and the human face vigilantly surveyed the area, before disappearing back into the tree trunk.

It became peaceful once more as if nothing had happened.

The passageway was very long, and this Magus walked for about ten minutes before he reached the end.

At the end was a huge basement, the surroundings of which flickered with yellow earth magic. It most likely had been made very recently.

In the spacious basement, there was the vague form of a giant with great amounts of green fog floating around him. Upon seeing the Magus, he seemed to smile. "You're here!"

"Hn!" The Magus nodded and pushed back the hood to reveal a handsome young face.

Black hair, elegant face, fair skin, and eyes that gave off a devilish glint.

Just by standing there, he was able to give off a strange charm.

This person was, of course, Leylin. His eyebrows were currently furrowed because nothing good could be happening if Giant chose this moment to summon him here.

At the same time, Leylin's nostrils flared.

"Did you receive a lot of guests just now? I seem to sense the aura of many familiar people..."

Giant looked at Leylin with some surprise. "Yes! They're all our comrades from the Thousand Meddling Hands. I'd already wiped off all traces of them, but you were actually able to notice! Looks like the rumours out there aren't wrong, and you're already a peak rank 1 Magus!"

Giant glanced at Leylin with some apprehension in his eyes. "Looks like our leader's initial choice to attract you into entering our organisation was a right one!"

Leylin only gave a mysterious smile in reply.

After the second bloodline transition, he could feel that the quality of his body constantly increasing. Even a few of his organs seemed to have awoken from a deep sleep and obtained many miraculous abilities.

Though these abilities were of no help to him in battle, they could usually exhibit surprising effects at unexpected moments.

"Looks like you're planning something grand!" Leylin looked Giant

straight in the eye.

From what he had sensed, Giant had actually called out all of the elites of the Thousand Meddling Hands.

Getting in contact with him was a huge risk, and he had even gotten Leylin to enter the inner circle of the Four Seasons Garden. It was easy to tell what Giant had planned to do.

“Hehe! That’s not my plan, but the idea from the Lord behind me!” Giant brought up the rank 2 dark Magus behind the Thousand Meddling Hands once again.

“So, the feathers of the Nefarious Filthbird are rather useful, yes?” Giant asked.

“I’ve used them!” Leylin lifted his brows. “If there’s anything you want to say, say it!”

“Alright! Our target, this time, is the resource warehouse in the Eternal Plains’ secret plane that the Four Seasons Garden is in charge of!” Giant told him their goal without beating around the bush.

“This time, not only will our members go all-out on this mission, even the Lord behind us will make his move at opportune times.”

Leylin’s face twitched slightly at this news, but he accepted this peacefully.

In the Four Seasons Garden, there was Reynold, who was at least a rank 2 Magus, taking charge! If there wasn’t an opponent with a similar level of power to attract the brunt of the assault, the invading dark Magi would just be committing suicide no matter how many of them there were!

“Alright. What’s my mission?” Leylin inquired.

“Good!” Giant pointed his thumb upwards. “Your mission is simple. The time we make our move is tomorrow night at 7. Reynold is planning on seeing you, right?”

Giant spoke matter-of-factly, but this made Leylin’s heart turn cold.

For him to know about even this, there must have been other spies from

the Thousand Meddling Hands in the Four Seasons Garden!

But putting your hands on everything will only expose your own identity! Leylin smirked inside.

Giant had not noticed any abnormalities in Leylin and was still speaking, “At that time, we will lead Reynold away. Your mission is to pass through a spell formation inside his office and activate this spell design.”

As he spoke, he passed a fist-sized red crystal to Leylin.

Pak! Leylin firmly caught the red crystal.

“What is this spell design?” The interior of the red crystal was laden with tiny runes. When the runes connected together, they looked like a gold liquid constantly flowing inside the crystal.

Though the A.I. Chip had never recorded such runes before, Leylin was sure that this was a spell design specially catered to a specific spell formation or artifact.

After all, how could something Reynold had placed in his own office and was personally protecting, be anything simple?

“It’s just a regular spell design to lift a seal!” It was obvious that Giant did not want to explain any further.

Leylin stared at the Giant for a long, long time, and then spoke. “You want me to do something in the area where the Four Seasons Garden has the tightest defense, which is a rank 2 Magus’ office. Are you trying to get me killed?”

As he spoke, Leylin’s eyes turned into an amber hue.

A powerful spiritual force with a depthless darkness quickly descended upon the area!

Bloodlust and terror! Spiritual force that carried dense elemental particles with it formed a phantom of a black, giant serpent, which glided around Giant. Its eyes were fixated on Giant, as if it was looking for a place for it to sink its teeth into.

“Such an imposing aura and such bloodlust! How many people has he

actually killed?”

Giant’s heart went cold. He himself wasn’t any good person and had taken the lives of countless people. However, compared to such a cold-blooded and strong bloodlust, he was still on a lower level than this person!

What made Giant even more shocked was that Leylin’s spiritual force had already reached an amount that only peak rank 1 Magi possessed. He might have even surpassed Giant himself!

“He actually dares to attack here!”

Gazing into Leylin’s ice-cold pupils, Giant’s heart suddenly chilled, feeling as if his opponent knew all of his secrets.

Chapter 236: Enchantment

“Don’t worry, we won’t abandon you!”

Giant tossed a detailed map that had a route marked out in red to Leylin.

“After completing your mission, follow this route, and you’ll definitely be able to leave safely before any other Magi find out. The Lord behind us will divert Reynold’s attention, and we’ll provide support as well.”

Giant spoke calmly, even going out of his way to mention the rank 2 dark Magus supporting Thousand Meddling Hands. It was obvious that he was trying to threaten Leylin.

Leylin was silent for a while. “I will try...”

If it was much too dangerous, he wasn’t going to risk his life for this organisation!

“Alright! You’ll find that this is a very simple and effortless mission!” Giant smiled, “After finishing this, you can rejoin us as a dark Magi! How about it? Which academy or organisation do you want to join? Just tell me.”

Leylin shook his head. He had no such plans yet, and he still did not entirely trust Giant’s words.

If one was not shrewd when dealing with dark Magi, it was certain that they would be taken advantage of so thoroughly that every last bone of theirs will be gobbled!

“Alright! To ensure that things go well, you will need to sign this!” Giant threw a black scroll to Leylin.

“Hm?” Leylin looked through the contents of the scroll and was amazed. “A Trial’s Eye contract? After I have taken the solvent of the Nefarious Filthbird’s feathers, you still dare to use this?”

“This is a special contract that the Lord behind us specifically made for you!” Giant pointed out, emphasizing the last three words. “Also, that solution was the very last one in our organisation. If you can find another,

we can only blame it on our bad luck.”

It looked like he was quite confident about this.

“Hehe... in that case, you’re the first person who dares to do something like this!” Leylin scrutinized Giant and smirked.

At the same time, the phantom giant serpent suddenly opened its mouth wide and bit towards Giant!

Rumble!

As it neared Giant, the phantom giant serpent suddenly collapsed and turned into a mass of shadow, slamming against Giant’s green fog and producing the sound of waves crashing on the shore.

“Haha... I was just cracking a joke! I’m but a regular member in the Thousand Meddling Hands, so how would I dare to pit myself against elders like you?”

A bright, gentle smile suddenly appeared on Leylin’s expression!

“You’ll become an elder soon enough! After this operation, I can nominate you!” Giant spoke after a moment’s thought.

“In that case, thank you!”

Leylin lightly tapped on the scroll, and the imprint of a black snake instantly appeared on it.

Rumble!

The apparition of the Trial’s Eye gave Leylin the feeling that this was even more powerful than the one that Reynold had summoned the previous time.

Under its emotionless gaze, the scroll in Leylin’s hands began to spontaneously combust.

Green flames enveloped the scroll.

The moment after the scroll completely burned up, a ray of light that represented the contract and its restrictions flew into Leylin’s mind.

Afterwards, the apparition of the Trial’s Eye automatically dispersed into

the air.

He had skimmed through the contract. The only conditions were that he could not help the Four Seasons Garden; there weren't any harsh conditions. After all, they still needed his help and could not go overboard.

"It didn't detect traces of the acts of the Nefarious Filthbird?" Leylin wondered.

He then left the area without a word.

Only Giant was left standing quietly in the basement as if he was waiting for something.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Minutes later, Giant's body, which was covered in green fog, began to shudder violently, and the wall behind him suddenly exploded!

After the dust settled, a large portion of Giant's fog had dispersed, revealing a giant figure that was up to 2 metres tall.

"Crazy! That person's a lunatic!"

Giant murmured to himself and proceeded to laugh maniacally. "Haha... Good! Interesting! Things are getting more interesting!"

He then transformed into a green fog and drifted out of the area.

Behind him, the basement gave way and dust filled the air...

The next day, Leylin punctually arrived at Reynold's office at seven in the evening.

"Lord Reynold!" He knocked on the door gently.

"Come in!" From behind the door, Reynold's gentle voice was heard.

Leylin took in a deep breath and pushed the door open. Reynold was seated on a chair of vines, wearing a pair of spectacles as he drank a green beverage. Beside him was a little round table and a similar chair.

"Leylin, you're here! Take a seat!" Reynold pointed to the chair beside him.

“Many thanks!” Leylin bowed once more and sat near Reynold.

“Here! Try the juice of the Jaded Daro Flower! We’re just having a private conversation now, so don’t be too reserved!” Reynold seemed just like a hospitable old man.

As if a little embarrassed, Leylin gave a slight smile and drank from the cup on the table.

The refreshing scent of nature pervaded his taste buds and extended throughout his four limbs. Leylin felt as if warm water was rinsing his body and making him feel rejuvenated.

“How is it? It tastes pretty good, right?” Reynold asked with anticipation.

“The collections of an elder like yourself are pretty good!” Leylin praised sincerely.

“Haha...” Like a child who had received a compliment, Reynold laughed aloud brightly.

“Here, let us have a friendly chat. Leylin, you seem to be from the Chernobyl Islands right? I went there once when I was young. Resources are scarce in such a barren land, and it’s lacking in Magi...”

Reynold was a very entertaining speaker, and he began to chat with Leylin about his past experiences.

As they spoke leisurely, time flew by, and in the blink of an eye, an hour had passed.

All of a sudden, Leylin suddenly smelt something very sweet.

“What is this?”

“It’s a type of incense from the Wetland Gardens. It’s said to be useful in replenishing one’s spiritual force, and is a favourite of the Magi there.”

Reynold explained lightly, his voice seemingly less and less discernible. A thread of silver spiritual force slowly extended.

Leylin’s expression became slacker and he could feel his eyelids becoming heavier. He eventually fell asleep.

Seeing Leylin in a deep sleep, a smile appeared on Reynold's face.

He took off a ring on Leylin's hand and inspected it closely.

"Ring of Sobriety? Looks like it has a few other effects that can defend against probings! There are seven different potions smeared on it as well. Looks like you've prepared well, but it's a pity..."

Reynold glanced at Leylin with a victorious smirk.

"The juice of the Jaded Daro Flower, as well as the pollen from the Intoxicated Dragon Petals, are something even a rank 2 Magus might not be able to withstand. What use is a mere ring and potion?"

These two items were a special combination that Reynold had picked out specifically for Leylin. Some of them even had to be transported from the secret plane, and he had used up a portion of his allowance as the chairman to obtain the items.

This had delayed his plans and allowed Leylin to have the chance to wreak havoc in the Four Seasons Garden.

Of course, since he had paid such a huge price, the effects were superb.

A peak rank 1 Magus was an existence that even a rank 2 Magus like Reynold needed to be careful of! Also, these Magi also had special methods, and might have had a high resistance against hallucinations and enchantments. What was more troublesome was that Leylin was still a member of Four Seasons Garden, so without actual evidence, Reynold could not do anything that might have severe aftereffects.

As an experienced, veteran rank 2 Magus, this was not a problem for Reynold. Now, using a special concoction, he had made Leylin pass out.

In addition, these two ingredients were not harmful to the body, and at most, they would cause Leylin to faint. His resistance to hallucinatory magic would be temporarily lowered, but after this, his body would ultimately benefit in the long run. Hence, Reynold was not going against the contract with the Trial's Eye.

"Even so, the effects of this type of hallucinogen will not last for a long

time. With his body, he'll awaken in about half an hour, so I have to be quick.

The vined chair under Reynold began to move until Reynold was right in front of Leylin.

“Open your eyes and look at me!”

Reynold spoke lightly, his voice having a strange effect that made one feel dazed.

As he spoke, silvery white rays of light shot out of his eyes. This was the appearance of the solidification of his spiritual force!

Upon hearing Reynold's words, Leylin's eyelids flickered and then opened.

“Your name?”

Reynold asked, the silvery white rays so intense that they seemed to be on the verge of piercing through Leylin's eyeballs.

“Leylin Farlier!”

“Where were you born? Do you have any relatives?”

.....

The questions Reynold asked were quite simple at the beginning, and as time went on, he went deeper and increased the difficulty.

Soon enough, after tens of questions, he got into the heart of the matter.

“Why were you wanted by the Lilytell family?”

Reynold asked gently, with some tremors in his voice.

“It is because in order to obtain an inheritance from a ruin, I killed Bosain Lilytell!” Leylin answered in a dazed manner, unable to control the words that spilled out of his mouth.

“What inheritance?” The silver light in his eyes became more concentrated.

“An inheritance that contains incomplete information about the

Branded Swordsmen! There's also a high-grade magic artifact." Leylin answered.

"Is that so?" Reynold shifted his glasses.

"Branded Swordsmen? A branch of the ancient Magi?" He sized up Leylin's body.

"A tall and strong body with some brands on the surface. It seems quite similar to the legends..."

As his vitality was amazingly high, the muscles on Leylin's body were now very obvious, and he had a terrifying amount of strength within. If he tried to impersonate a Grand Knight, nobody would doubt him.

"In that case, what is your relationship with the Thousand Meddling Hands?" Reynold came to the key question.

Chapter 237: Deceit

Rumble!

Just as Reynold was using the illusionary spell to interrogate Leylin, a mighty energy wave fluctuation came from afar.

This fluctuation was so immense that even the buildings had mildly shook.

“What? A sneak attack?” Reynold stood up abruptly.

A layer of white light which seemed to be a communication device shone on his body in an instant.

“What’s happening?” Reynold asked indifferently.

“It’s the dark Magi! We suffered a sneak attack from the dark Magi! The first and second defense lines have already perished. We’re currently at the third line of defense!”

From the communication device, the image of a fair-skinned burly bloke who had donned a military uniform was projected.

This was the leader of the defense team who was specially assigned to defend all of Four Seasons Garden. The expression on his face was wrought with fright and worry. It seemed that the dark Magi had placed him under great pressure!

A simple and tiny issue.

“I will mobilise the fighting and hunting teams to your area as soon as possible, you...” Reynold replied to the communicative device.

Suddenly, his face darkened.

Through the projection of the communication device, he could see a gigantic black hand land from the skies and mash the burly bloke between its fingers.

“Ah...” The burly, fair-skinned bloke cried out miserably as he produced large amounts of milky white flames.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

A large number of miserable looking faces appeared on the gigantic black hand, their mouths opening wide as they swallowed the milky white flames.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The bone-chilling sounds of gnawing sounds were heard. After swallowing the white flames, they actually began to gnaw at the burly, fair-skinned man's body.

“Jejeje...”

In midair, solidified silver spiritual force appeared and formed a human face.

“Reynold, my old friend! Why aren't you coming to greet me?”

The face sneered.

Immediately after, the huge black hand swept the area and made a mess of the Four Seasons Garden's defensive line. Under the tyrannical abuse of a rank 2 Magus, the ordinary rank 1 Magi were as insignificant as ants.

Pak! The armrest of Reynold's vined chair was kneaded until it broke.

Shua! In a flash, he turned into a green figure and rushed out.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

After he left, his vined chair squirmed and constantly twisted, gradually turning into something that resembled a human. It stood by Leylin who was still unconscious as if keeping guard.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Huge undulations from the magic that were even more immense than before travelled over. This was an intense fight between two rank 2 Magi.

As they fought, they moved further and further away as if deliberately trying to avoid this area.

In Reynold's office.

All of a sudden, Leylin who had been unconscious, suddenly opened his eyes.

At that instant, his eyes turned amber.

Innate spell formation—Eye of Petrification!

The vined human that had been keeping watch over him immediately turned into a grey stone statue.

After his second bloodline transition, this spell and Kemoyin's Scales had evolved.

Leylin surveyed the area and stretched lazily, fixing the Ring of Sobriety that was on the round table back onto his finger.

"Though the process was a little unexpected, nothing bad happened."

Leylin's eyes were very clear. Where were the traces of him being caught in a hallucination?

Previously, Reynold had used a few ingredients and set up a trap, which had indeed cause him to fall into a hallucination.

But that was just for a moment. The power of the bloodline of the ancient being, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, was flowing in his veins and devouring all external substances!

His vitality of over 25 degrees had made it easier for him to quickly come back to his senses.

At that time, Leylin had beat Reynold at his own game and pretended he was still in a daze, thus lowering Reynold's guard.

With the help of the A.I. Chip, his breathing, his body's situation, and waves of his spiritual energy had been feigned spectacularly, which even deceived Reynold.

All that nonsense about the Branded Swordsmen was obviously just that—lies. With the adjustments made by the A.I. Chip, making up runes was a simple matter.

Only now did Leylin have the time to really look at the rank 2 Magus

Reynold's office.

Based on his interests, the office was made of plants. The bookcase and window, as well as the tables, chairs, and even a few strange books were all made of plants.

The entire setup was very clever and wasn't very big, giving off a cosy and tiny feeling.

"Where is the place at which I need to place the spell design for it to activate?" Leylin mumbled to himself, producing a scarlet crystal from his pocket.

The crystal now was emitting a bright red and was boiling hot.

"Is this... some sensing technique?"

Leylin touched his chin, using the crystal to discern the direction in which he should be moving.

He eventually found out that when he pointed the crystal at Reynold's desk, it would emit the brightest light and be the hottest, to the point that he felt his hand was being burnt.

Following the crystal, he came before Reynold's desk.

This was a large green table with rings on it that indicated the age of a tree.

Weng Weng!

At this moment, the crystal in Leylin's hand exploded in a ring of light and mysteriously hovered in the air.

"This is... a spell formation that is triggered automatically!" Leylin's eyes widened, and he pointed his right hand at the crystal, causing tendrils of black gas to crawl onto it like snakes.

Crash!

Under the shine of the scarlet crystal, the dark green desk suddenly shook, and most of the papers, quill, ink and various items on top of it rolled off of the surface.

The surface kept squirming, and the various types of plants making up the table began to grow and extend.

Pak! The green desk was split into two, and under these two parts, numerous plants grew and acted like little feet which scurried away.

In the place where the desk had been, there was now a huge pit.

In the heart of the pit was a huge sealing spell formation that was shining with all sorts of runes that were floating around.

On the surface of the spell formation, there were a few gaps. After making some comparisons, Leylin figured that the spot right at the middle could fit the red crystal.

“Classified information like this actually got out, and there was even a spell design specially made for this...” Leylin mumbled to himself.

All of a sudden, something strange happened!

The scarlet crystal that had been hovering in midair suddenly burst out into blood red flames, zooming like a fire arrow towards the part of the formation that was caved in.

In the crystal, there was a requirement that required it to make contact with the spell formation before it was activated.

Combined with Giant’s obvious attempts at hiding the truth, Leylin could easily tell that it wouldn’t be good if the crystal activated.

However, there was no sense of flustering on his expression. Rather, there was a profound look on his face.

“I’ve been waiting for this!” He reached forward with his right hand!

“Snake Binding!”

The little black snakes that had been crawling on the crystal immediately began to squirm and turned into a huge snake ball, securing the red crystal within.

Black gas pervaded the area, on the verge of concealing the red light the crystal was emitting.

Weng Weng!

The red crystal constantly expanded, and Leylin seemed to hear a sound of unwillingness from within.

“As expected, there’s even a backup plan! It’s a pity...”

Leylin rapidly chanted incantations and sprinkled some light blue powder into the air.

“Freezing River!” As he finished the last syllable of the incantation, a light blue light surrounded the snake ball.

Tssss! White threads of mist were produced, and on the surface of the snake ball, the white mist condensed and turned into a layer of thin ice.

The amount of ice became greater and greater, until, at the end, a thick layer of ice had been formed around the snake ball. The entire snake ball seemed like it had turned into a huge ball of ice.

The red rays of light that the crystal had been producing was now completely contained within.

As if it had lost its detection abilities, the large spell formation in the pit ceased its rumbling, and all sorts of runes ceased to move on the surface of the formation.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

Three large ice pillars were like pylons, or perhaps chains, as they connected with the blue ball of ice.

“Hn! The power of this sealing spell formation is not half bad!” Leylin nodded in satisfaction.

This sealing spell formation was something he had gained from blackmailing Pierre at the Four Seasons Garden. It was definitely something worth being kept safely in the warehouse as it was quite effective. It looked like Pierre had not given him inferior items to go against him.

Leylin then shifted his attention to the spell formation that was caved in in the middle.

“A.I. Chip! Compare the runes on the spell design!”

A blue ray of light brightened in his eyes and shone straight at the spell formation.

A huge amount of data flashed past Leylin’s eyes.

Countless runes and designs were currently being compared.

The red crystal from before was merely a key. The runes used on it were strange, and Leylin previously had no way to tell its function from the runes.

But now, both the key and the keyhole were here. Hence, he was able to make comparisons between the runes on both ends and tell the rough functions of the spell formation and crystal.

Seconds later, the A.I. Chip’s conclusion appeared before Leylin.

“The part that’s caved in is a sealing formation, and the crystal’s function is to detonate?”

A cold look emerged on his face as Leylin read through the first two lines. “Very good, Giant! Just you wait!”

The A.I. Chip’s robotic voice continued to intone.

Chapter 238: Scapegoat

[From the energy emitted by the spell formation, analysis shows that the probability of a body of consciousness residing in the spell formation is 78.9%.]

The A.I. Chip's conclusion was presented before Leylin.

"A body of consciousness?!" Leylin's eyes sparkled.

"Can you compare it with the database and find out what sort of body of consciousness it is?"

[Searching... Beep! There is no such information in the database. Comparing with Host body's existing memories...]

The A.I. Chip operated quickly.

Seconds later, a new conclusion was shown to Leylin: [The body of consciousness emits an aura that comes from the Eternal River Plains' secret plane. Determined to be a special being from the secret plane itself! Compatibility with large platinum gate of entrance to the secret plane: 67%.]

"Platinum gate?" Leylin's eyes widened, suddenly thinking back to the platinum gate that seemed like an ancient existence, right across from the headquarters. Incomplete spiritual force waves were emitted by the gate!

"From the looks of it, I'm afraid that the platinum door has already evolved to have its own intelligence. However, it was removed by Magi from Four Seasons Garden and sealed here. Hence, its spiritual force waves gave me such a strange feeling..."

Leylin slowly came up with the entire process that led to this result.

Though he had no idea why Four Seasons Garden sealed the consciousness of the entrance to the secret plane, there were only a few reasons that Leylin wasn't going to bother wondering about.

What he was more focused on was what would happen to the entrance to the secret plane if its consciousness was destroyed.

After all, the red crystal that Giant gave him was no unsealing spell design! Instead, it would control the spell formation as well as the consciousness within, and destroy them together!

“A.I. Chip! Simulate the consequences of the destruction of the secret plane’s body of consciousness.”

Leylin spoke quietly, his expression dark and dreadful.

[Beep! Mission established, beginning to compare with high-level patterns. Importing data...] The A.I. Chip intoned loyally.

After which, the result was placed before Leylin.

[Based on simulated experiments and remnants, if the body of consciousness is damaged, the possibility of the platinum gate being destroyed is 79.8%. Entrance will automatically close and be sealed shut. Another 15.2% chance of the opposite happening. The entrance will then become a public entrance and be open to any living beings... the last 5% possibility has unknown consequences!]

Leylin, who was silently reading the conclusion, suddenly understood everything.

The most important part in the battle for the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane was the acquisition of the entrance. Seven entrances had been discovered, with four being controlled by the light Magi.

This control referred not only to the Magi army set up on the outer areas but also to a certain key that could control the opening and closing of the entrance!

From the looks of it, these keys referred to each gate’s core body of consciousness!

“If I detonate this area, there’s a large probability of Four Seasons Garden’s entrance disappearing. The dark and light Magi will then hold the same number of entrances and there won’t be any disadvantages when trying to take over the secret plane.”

Leylin could easily tell the intentions of the dark Magi.

These Magi were planning to destroy the entrance here!

Gaining control of the entrance meant obtaining a large amount of land, plentiful resources, as well as a huge number of troops. Most importantly, the speed at which spoils of war were transported would be increased!

Light Magi currently held possession of four entrances. Whether in terms of the areas with radiation or potential battle power, they exceeded the dark Magi by a large margin. Hence, the dark Magi had to think of ways to make up for this handicap!

Even if this place was not destroyed, it was still necessary to rob this place from the light Magi. They would rather have this place become a public domain than let it be controlled by the light Magi!

“Shrewd! A very, very clever plan!”

Leylin, who had made sense of this whole situation, couldn't help but praise the person who had come up with this operation.

However, as the very last chess piece in this game, he was in a very difficult position.

If he destroyed the body of consciousness now, the gate to the secret plane would immediately be damaged and perhaps permanently lose its abilities. This may or may not be a good thing.

Leylin, who had completed this task, would be held in high regard by the dark Magi, but the light Magi would definitely not let him off so easily.

This was a decision that he needed to think through carefully. Just for that little bit of merit, was it actually worth it to offend the entire light Magi alliance?

“Is there still... a need to consider any further?”

Leylin's eyes brightened.

“From this crystal and the extremely opportune timing, it looks like there's someone in the shadows controlling everything. This person also has to have a high position in Four Seasons Garden, or else it'd be impossible for him to do this much... I'm almost sure of who it is! Once

this operation is over, he'll be the one reaping the most benefits. I might even be labelled as a traitor and be chased to death, while he will get the most merits for everything....”

Leylin's lips quirked in a cold smile.

Since ancient times, a spy's position was the most difficult. Even if they succeeded, if the person who instigated the operation was not willing to tie up loose ends, the spy would be the one who would stand to lose the most!

Besides, compared to a lowly spy like him, there was another spy with a higher position, had been in Four Seasons Garden longer, and was an even more loyal choice.

If there were conflicts of interest between them, who would Thousand Meddling Hands choose? This was a rhetorical question.

Besides, the contract he had signed with Giant only specified that he could not help Four Seasons Garden, but the reason he was doing this was for his own benefit. With his own desire to get some benefits from Four Seasons Garden, it was evident that he would not suffer any backlash from going against the contract's terms.

Afraid that Leylin would not agree, Giant did not dare to make the conditions too strict. If the conditions stated that he had to destroy specific things, then Leylin would definitely investigate further and could decide not to sign the contract at all.

“Shatter!”

Leylin clenched his fist while facing the blue ball of ice!

*Ka-cha! Ka-cha!” Countless shards of ice fell from the ice ball, and immediately after, innumerable cracks appeared on the surface of the ice ball.

Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack!

Finally, the entire light blue ball of ice cracked and along with it, the red crystal dispersed into powder.

This spell design that would cause the spell formation to implode was

destroyed by Leylin, just like that!

Leylin had thought this through.

It was alright to betray Four Seasons Garden. At most, he would have become the enemy to one more organisation, but destroying the gate of the secret plane would mean offending the entire light Magi alliance!

The current Eternal River Plains' secret plane was a huge chunk of flesh that dark and light Magi alike were waiting for an opportunity to swallow into their stomachs!

The gate to the secret plane did not belong to just Four Seasons Garden, but the entire light Magi alliance! Four Seasons Garden was but one of the characters who would look over the entrance. The moment Leylin destroyed the entrance, all light Magi forces would lose their advantage in this battle!

Since ancient times, destroying a person's livelihood was akin to murdering one's own parents. For Magi, the secret plane was a huge gold mine where one could obtain a limitless amount of top grade materials! If he pitted himself against the light Magi like this, he would be chased to the ends of the earth and there would be no end to it!

On top of that, all of the light Magi powers would be working together to exterminate their enemy! The dangers of this operation were way above that of the times previously when he had gathered spirits and plundered brazenly!

In the south coast, light Magi were at the top. If the entire light Magi faction was against him, it was impossible for Leylin to stay alive. All he could do was find a deserted place and live a hermit's life.

If he had connections in the dark Magi alliance things would still be fine.

This operation would be a huge gain on the dark Magi's side, and based on his huge contribution, he would have a comfortable life with the dark Magi.

It was a pity that Leylin had entered Thousand Meddling Hands halfway

through and was not as trustworthy. Otherwise, he would not have been deceived into doing this.

Besides that, he had no backing in the dark Magi alliance and rather, had some foes within!

After all, Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was a member of the dark Magi alliance. He had brazenly killed off the elder of the Lilytell family, Metallic Lunatic Marb, which resulted in a blood debt!

After considering the matter carefully, Leylin concluded that exploding the gate to the secret plane did not benefit him at all, and he would have actually become the scapegoat!

Leylin was definitely not going to do something that would harm his own interests.

Hence, with one last look at Reynold's office, he ruthlessly left!

.....

Rumble!

Within the headquarters of Four Seasons Garden at the Eternal River Plain's secret plane, immense energy waves from spells exploding could be felt everywhere. Mixed within those sounds were miserable cries and maniacal laughter.

The dark Magi's attack, this time, was very fierce and they had quickly made their way to the centre of the headquarters.

Hence, Leylin found very few official Magi along the way. Nobody bothered to interrogate him either, so his whole journey out was very smooth sailing.

Many Magi in black cloaks were freely venting their dark desires, and some Magi could be seen bursting into flames.

The violent flames engulfed the area and turned the prosperous and busy trading centre into a sea of fire.

The official Magi of Four Seasons Garden were doing their utmost to hold back the dark Magi while awaiting support.

The Magi who had chosen no sides were around mostly to look on without lifting a finger, while only a few who were on good terms with Four Seasons Garden chose to participate in the battle.

Magi were a bunch of cold people, and seeing that the dark and light Magi were participating in a large-scale battle, most of the Magi present chose to look after their own hide and observe.

This was obviously the case for acolytes.

While official Magi were fighting, they did not even have the chance to intervene. Usually, just a stray wave of magic from an official Magus could cause a large number of deaths.

“Things seem to be rather chaotic!” Leylin laughed without care.

Though he was wearing the attire that belonged to Four Seasons Garden, the expression on his face was very composed and as cool as ice, as if everything happening here had nothing to do with him.

“Magus Leylin, what are you doing?”

At this moment, a figure rapidly appeared before Leylin. It was Dolorin.

This vice team leader of the defense squad cut quite a sorry figure, his white robes torn into shreds.

Chapter 239: Blood Rogue's Appearance

“Magus Leylin! In my authority as the vice team leader of the defense squad, you will temporarily be expropriated! Those darned dark Magi bastards are plundering our headquarters and killing our family and friends. I need you! Let us go and resist the enemy!”

Dolorin looked as if he was in a frenzy and was burning with rage. It looked like he was truly loyal to Four Seasons Garden.

As a large light Magi organisation, Four Seasons Garden had a very strong sense of unity.

Hence, even under such circumstances, many official Magi, and even acolytes, were willing to risk their lives and fight.

“My apologies, but I won't do it!” Leylin unenthusiastically spoke.

“What did you say?” Dolorin became wide-eyed, unwilling to believe what he was hearing.

“I said I won't! I am now the patrolling inspector at the headquarters! Just my position alone means that I have the same level of authority as that dead team leader of yours. Even he didn't have the power to command me to do anything, much less you.”

Leylin squinted, causing Dolorin to seethe with rage.

“You... you dare...” Dolorin gestured at Leylin, his finger trembling.

Though his lips twitched, he did not say a word. Leylin's reason could not be refuted, and with his current position, he did not have the authority to order Leylin, who held a higher position, to do anything.

“Well then, Lord Leylin! Where are you going?”

Dolorin suddenly asked with his fists tightly clenched and his eyes fixed on Leylin.

“Are you trying to mind my business?” Leylin's spoke in a low register as he looked at this burly man.

“Of course not! It's just that an envoy just came down from the

headquarters and is standing guard at Experiment Zone 3. I think you might want to see him?" Dolorin lowered his head, though his words showed he had no intents of backing down.

"An envoy from the headquarters?" Leylin furrowed his brows. This was a key position and represented the will of the entire Four Seasons Garden. This person obviously had a position that was much higher than his temporary role as a patrolling inspector.

"Why wasn't I informed of this? Who is it?" Leylin asked on.

"It's Lord Reynold's personal disciple, Lord Wade!" The name that came out of Dolorin's mouth was unexpected, but at the same time logical.

"So it's him! No wonder!" Leylin nodded.

Wade was a Magus who had been raised in Four Seasons Garden, from when he had been a regular human till he became an acolyte and then further became a Magus. His entire being had a close connection to Four Seasons Garden, and he was definitely loyal.

On top of that, the person in charge here was Reynold, who was also his teacher. In terms of communication and connections, he had a natural advantage.

"It's going to be troublesome to have an envoy come down at this time..." Leylin's heart lurched.

Immediately after, Dolorin stared straight at Leylin. "My lord, think about it..."

"Since it's an envoy from the headquarters and the situation is somewhat dire now, I'll have to meet him!" Leylin said indifferently.

Surveying the area, he noted that the dark and light Magi were immersed in battle and nobody had the time to pay any attention to him.

Also, they were in a corner and there was little chance of them being seen from afar.

After having noted this situation, the expression on Leylin's face became calmer as he tucked his hands into his sleeves.

“That’s good... Ah...”

What appeared on Dolorin’s face was glee, followed by a complicated glint in his eyes, as if some sort of evil plan was brewing in his mind. However, all of this was immediately destroyed by a pair of flaming, crimson palms.

These crimson palms had blood red flames that went through Dolorin’s innate defense spell formation like paper and pierced right into his chest.

A flash of disbelief passed Dolorin’s face before he turned into a pile of ashes under the blood-red flames.

Leylin calmly retracted his hands. He was now the number one being who was second only to rank 2 Magi. Dolorin was a rank 1 Magus who was not even at the peak yet. Leylin had gone all out and mounted a sneak attack, and hence Dolorin had been killed in a single attack.

From within the ashes, a hint of grey light rose and turned into a grey skull that pounced towards Leylin.

“Oh! A secret imprint? I never expected Dolorin to have something like this!”

Blood red glints flashed by his eyes and two crimson rays shot out of his pupils which landed on the imprint in a straight line.

Sssii! Large amounts of white mist rose, and under the crimson rays, the skull imprint dispersed. It turned into little grey spots that disappeared into the air.

This was the same type of imprint that Bosain and Torash, who had both been killed by Leylin, possessed. This was an imprint that Magi used to mark those they wanted to take revenge on.

When Leylin was still an acolyte, it was exceedingly difficult to remove this type of imprint the moment he made contact with it. It was also easy for Magi to track, which was why he had used the most direct and simplest way to kill those two acolytes.

But this was now different! Leylin had advanced to a peak rank 1 Magus!

The imprint of a regular Magus could easily be removed with a little spiritual force.

He was only fearful of the secret imprint that rank 2 Magi personally set up. A rank 1 Magus imprints was not a worry to him.

“Shadow Clone!” After doing all this, Leylin was still not content and pointed at the pile of bone and ashes.

A black shadow clone crawled out from the shadows and entered the ashes.

The shadow clone that was now mixed with the ashes extended, grew bigger, and became another man who was similar to Dolorin.

Their faces and attire were practically the same, though the shadow clone’s skin was black. It was weird and rather terrifying.

“Shapeshifting spell!” With a stretch of his hand, milky white light converged in his palm and shot to the clone’s body.

Under the effects of the shapeshifting spell, the clone’s skin instantly turned fair, and even gave some colour to its face. It looked just like Dolorin.

“Go! Show your face to the Magi in Four Seasons Garden, and then find an opportune time to die in battle!” Leylin instructed.

The shadow clone which had turned into Dolorin bowed towards Leylin and dashed off quickly.

“Trying to make me cannon fodder by getting me to see the leader at this time?”

Leylin glanced at the ground, where Dolorin had once been, a tranquil expression about his face.

“Whether it’s killing dark or light Magi, none of this has any meaning. The real treasure is waiting for me! Time is running out and I don’t have time to play around with you.”

Leylin’s original intention was to take advantage of the chaos and seize some benefits, but Dolorin had schemed for Leylin to meet the envoy from

the headquarters hence Leylin had no choice but oblige.

This was the complete opposite of Leylin's intentions. Hence, Dolorin must die!

"It's about time for Blood Rogue to appear!"

Leylin murmured to himself, rays of light appearing in his right arm and turning into a crimson mask. His robes also underwent some changes and turned into a shade of crimson, a stark contrast to the original white, and looked as if it had been stained by fresh blood.

His aura also changed, reeking of bloodlust and evil.

Just looking at him was enough to cause official Magi to break out in cold sweat.

Leylin's other identity in Thousand Meddling Hands, Blood Rogue, now made its appearance!

After having transformed into Blood Rogue, Leylin identified a direction and rushed in the direction of the Merit Point Exchange Hall.

One would be an idiot not to seize benefits when possible!

The battle at the Merit Point Exchange Hall was also the most intense, with various spells and energies flying all over the place.

Within the rubble, Magi of the defense squad in the white robes of Four Seasons Garden and Magi in the black robes of Thousand Meddling Hands were now tangled together.

All sorts of pieces and fragments of resources were strewn all over the ground. There was even an intellectual crystal ball that had been discarded in a corner within the rubble.

"Hm?"

From the corner of his eyes, Leylin discovered a few hidden black figures who emitted energy waves that belonged to acolytes! They must be incredibly reckless to even think of participating in a battle between Magi.

These figures lay in wait at the sidelines of the battle, their greedy little

eyes fixated on the items strewn all over the ground.

Even if they were to pay their life for this, there was no guarantee that they would be able to obtain these items in their lifetime. Taking advantage of the chaotic situation, a few of the more daring acolytes actually began to have designs on these items.

Rumble! An icy blue ray of light dispersed, and the remaining waves of energy hit one of the acolytes present.

This acolyte didn't even have the chance to make a sound before he turned into an ice statue amidst the blue light.

Such a miserable scene scared away a large number of acolytes.

There were, however, a few lucky acolytes who successfully left the battlefield after retrieving some resources and ingredients.

Though the official Magi present had discovered their presence, they couldn't be bothered with these existences that were as unremarkable as ants.

Making use of the Magi's reasoning, these acolytes betted their lives and struggled towards this hint of an opportunity! They did this despite knowing that if any official Magus found them an eyesore, they would immediately lose their lives!

Leylin suddenly reflected upon this and realised that a Magus' path was full of blood and cruelty.

He strode forth at a measured pace and entered the heart of the battle.

"It's Lord Blood Rogue!" "Lord Blood Rogue is here!" The Thousand Meddling Hands' Magi present immediately gasped.

Amidst them was a huge black rodent-like Magus who quickly got rid of its opponent and bowed before Leylin.

"It's actually Lord Blood Rogue! It's been a long time!"

The huge rodent now had green eyes that were the size of longan fruits and looked ready to bootlick any given moment.

Ever since Leylin had displayed his exceptional battle strength in previous fights, combined with Bald Venom's disappearance without a trace, this large rodent had analysed the situation well and apologised to Leylin. It had also sent a large number of precious items.

From then on, it would eagerly approach Leylin and greet him, acting just like his servant.

Chapter 240: Holy Angel

“En!”

When facing this large rodent-like dark Magus, Leylin only nodded slightly.

“You’re just in time. There are some areas that require your natural talent. Stay beside me!”

“Yes, my lord!” A glint of glee appeared in the large rodent’s eyes, and it quickly stood at a short distance behind Leylin.

It was very clear that in this large-scale war, even for official Magi, the probability of death was not low.

In order to protect itself, besides trying its hardest to raise its strength, the rodent Magus also had to have strong backers to protect itself. This was a method of survival!

“Who is that?”

The opposing Four Seasons Garden Magi asked in suspicion as they naturally could not recognise Leylin as he was right now.

“It’s Blood Rogue from Thousand Meddling Hands! It’s said that his crimes are insane, and in just the short span of a year, he’s already committed nine major crimes and has been labelled as a notorious criminal on the wanted list!”

Another old light Magi stared hard at Leylin, eyes revealing an unspeakable fear.

Leylin merely laughed gently and approached them, while the two dark Magi respectfully backed off.

“I’m only going to say this once! Move!” He spoke brazenly to the light Magi.

“Are you crazy?”

Seeing Leylin actually dared to threaten a whole group of light Magi, even a few Magi from the Thousand Meddling Hands thought Leylin to be

crazy.

However, the large rodent and the rest who knew Leylin better could feel their scalps numb as they retreated a few steps.

“Once Lord Reynold returns, the whole lot of you insane dark Magi will... ugh...”

A light Magus stood out and spoke righteously.

However shortly after, a translucent, black, giant serpent seemed to travel through space and appeared in front of him. Extending its mouth, which was full of sharp teeth, it bit down upon his neck.

Ka-cha! A piercing sound was produced, and this light Magus’ innate defence formation was destroyed to pieces in less than a second under the snake’s bite.

After that, the python directly bit the Magus’ unprotected nape! The spinal cord was ripped to shreds, and flesh and blood flew everywhere.

“Honestly... are all of you deaf?”

The light Magus’ corpse fell to the ground with a loud thud, and Leylin’s blood-red robes seemed to produce crimson rays of light. He faced the light Magi in front of him and spoke peacefully.

“Just-Just what level of... This power far exceeds that of the semi-converted Magus that he had been.”

Upon having seen Leylin kill an official Magus in one blow, the large black rodent behind him couldn’t help but be shocked. From what he knew, in Thousand Meddling Hands, there were only a few peak rank 1 Magi, such as Giant, who could do this. However, another person had joined their ranks – Blood Rogue!

It even went so far as to guess that Blood Rogue right now might have surpassed Giant and the other elders. At this thought, with a gleeful, and an even more intense gaze that could be seen on its slender and hollowed face, it stared at Leylin’s figure.

“Togo! He actually killed Togo!”

A female Four Seasons Garden Magus looked at Togo's corpse, evidently in disbelief, and went insane.

"I'll kill you!"

With a crazed look upon her face, she was then wrapped up in a bundle of milky white light!

Ka-cha!

Under the shroud of light, her clothes split and revealed the curvy body of a young woman.

At the same time, layers of clean white feathers sprouted out from her back, eventually forming a pair of large white wings.

"The holy form! Looks like she's going to go all out!"

The surrounding Magi were surprised, and all of them had varying reactions.

Some chose to retreat, others rushed in from the sidelines, and even more light Magi came in and surrounded Leylin.

"Holy Judgement!"

As if an angel had descended upon the earth, the female Magus' face shone with a holy light. Her eyes turned pure gold as she pointed straight at Leylin.

Light! Pure, clear holy light formed a knight's lance, accompanied by a holy chorus in the background. Along with a huge spurt of energy, it charged towards Leylin!

"Kill him! Let's kill him!"

Immediately after, the surrounding light Magi produced their best spells, and colourful magic rays rushed towards Leylin like a wave.

In the face of such an attack, the black rodent immediately retreated, while other dark Magi had long since hidden themselves away.

Leylin wasn't their superior and lacked the authority to command them.

In addition, as a dark Magi who had committed crime after crime, even if

there was a leader who ordered them to go forth, they would disobey.

“At critical times, they’re a bunch of unreliable fellows! It’s good that I wasn’t counting on any assistance from them.”

Leylin raised both arms and loudly chanted a few syllables.

Hualala! A bright crimson colour stained his hands; the red was so concentrated that it looked like fresh blood on the verge of dripping down.

“It’s appeared! The magic that gave Blood Rogue his name – Crimson Palm!”

A few dark Magi who were concealed a distance away yelled in awe.

“Die!” With a cold glint in his eyes, his two hands mercilessly scratched forward!

Boom!

Two blood-red phantom claws emerged and charged towards the holy lance and the wave of magic.

Rumble! On the surface of the crimson claws, large amounts of blood-red flames rose to the skies, virtually turning the sky crimson.

Rumble!

The flaming, sharp phantom claws slammed into the lance as well as the onslaught of spells, which produced a huge sound.

Black mushroom clouds formed and rose above the explosion; the aftershocks constantly spreading and shaving off a few layers of earth.

Weng Weng!

Countless amounts of black smoke and ash flew about, fully blocking the scene within the explosion.

Ku! Ku!

All of a sudden, two phantom claws that seemed slightly damaged charged through the layer of smoke and out of the explosion area.

Huge crimson claws grabbed at the angel in the sky!

Light! Large amounts of clean holy light transformed into crystal-like armour, automatically equipping itself to the female Magus.

She now had on crystal armour and a pair of large white wings, looking as if an ancient goddess of war had descended upon the earth.

In contrast, the large crimson claws seemed like the hands of a demonic god from the depths of hell, mercilessly grabbing towards the war goddess!

Ka-cha!

Large crimson claws crashed into the armour, emitting the sounds of something cracking.

Under the disbelieving gazes of the many Magi present, the solid crystal armour that seemed to be a product from the heavens was torn into shreds by the crimson claws. They fluttered like butterflies before they turned into little spots of light that disappeared into the air.

After which, the crimson claws ruthlessly caught hold of the female Magus.

The wings behind her back were forcefully ripped off, where pieces of pure white feathers drifted to the ground as if it was snowing.

The huge crimson claws immediately gripped her fiercely.

Pa! Like a watermelon that had been gripped so tightly that it exploded, the female Magus burst into pieces, blood flowing unceasingly. The liquid was absorbed by the huge claws, which caused its appearance to become more terrifying and evil.

[Beep! Power of Crimson Palm has reached the limits a second time. Layering effect achieved. 1. Crimson Flames: the crimson flames from Crimson Palm can be used as an area of effect attack. 2. Bloodleech: Every time Crimson Palm is used to kill an opponent, the power that is consumed will automatically be replenished after absorbing the opponent's blood.]

The A.I. Chip's voice sounded in Leylin's ear.

"Oh! Does that mean that every time I kill someone, Crimson Palm has

the ability to automatically replenish its power and that the Magus doesn't have to do it himself?"

Leylin was astonished. This spell was something he had obtained from the great Magus Serholm's Book of Giant Serpent.

It looked like the great Magus Serholm truly was deserving of his rank as a Morning Star Magus. Just a random rank 1 spell had such frightening effects.

After having absorbed the female Magus' blood, the phantom crimson claws that had begun to turn dull and start to dissipate seemed to have received some powerful nourishment, and suddenly burst with crimson light!

The flames that had already died down began to burn furiously upon the claws.

Boom!

The crimson claw pressed down!

A huge palm imprint appeared on the ground, with flames burning around it.

The giant claw slapped a few Magi from Four Seasons Garden, and due to the crimson flames, they turned to ashes.

One strike! With just one strike, Leylin had killed countless official Magi!

If such battle achievements were to be spread, his name would be known throughout the south coast and even go down in history!

"Blood... Blood Rogue is actually so strong! Has he advanced to a rank 2 Magus already?!"

The dark Magi of Thousand Meddling Hands were startled by Leylin's ferocious strike and were also stunned into silence for a long while.

Shua shua shua!

Upon seeing Leylin's attack, innumerable light Magi completely lost their confidence. Using various types of spells, they transformed into wind

or giant birds, amongst other animals, and rapidly left the area.

Leylin merely stood where he was, not bothering to give chase.

For him, killing light Magi was useless. What was more important was to steal resources!

Boom!

Yet another large claw was sent out and uncovered a passageway from the rubble.

Leylin went on a wild rampage, like the fiercest animal in ancient times, and based on the memory of the route that Pierre had taken, he destroyed all the traps and spell formations along the way.

In just a moment, he came before the huge resource warehouse from before.

Under his fierce flames, the huge metal door was melted into a liquid that flowed freely on the ground. With his hands clasped behind his back, he brazenly walked into the large resource warehouse.

“My Lord! After you!”

The dark Magi who had followed Leylin here did not dare to be indolent even in the face of such a huge room of treasure. Rather, they respectfully allowed him to have the first browse through these spoils of war.

Chapter 241: Killing Pierre

Leylin unceremoniously began to search through the large resource warehouse as the smallest and most valuable items all disappearing into his robes.

The rodent who was following him took advantage of Leylin's high position and managed to obtain quite a few valuable items.

Once he was satisfied with his loot, Leylin returned to the doorway and spoke to the rest of the Magi who were anxiously waiting, "The rest is all yours."

"Many thanks to Lord Blood Rogue!"

After the Magi present bowed to Leylin, they cheered as they impatiently dashed into the warehouse, plundering as they liked.

"What a pity! If I had some magic artifact that could store items in another space dimension, you wouldn't be getting anything from here."

Watching the large storage warehouse get ravaged, a feeling of pity overcame him.

Even if he couldn't use these things, they could be exchanged for magic crystals and the like.

However, time was short and he could not afford to keep many items on his body, so they were able to benefit from this.

"Rodent! Come here!"

Leylin spoke indifferently.

"My Lord, what may I do for you?" Upon witnessing Leylin's battle achievements, this Magus, Rodent, was already fully in awe of Leylin and was even ready to sell its body to him.

"You specialise in detection, right? I remember the last time while we were surveying the entrance to the secret plane, you were the first one to discover it."

Leylin spoke matter-of-factly, but from the sharp glint in his eyes, it

seemed as if he had already seen through Rodent's entire being.

"It's just an effect from the shapeshifting spell..." Rodent's heart chilled as it smiled dryly.

"Good! Find me the current location of this smell!"

Leylin raised his index finger, and tendrils of blackness were emitted and turned into thin little black pythons. They quickly appeared before Rodent and bit onto its nose.

"Ah..." Rodent gave a miserable cry, but the intense pain it had been expecting did not register. Instead, the smell of a Magus had travelled into his mind.

"It's him! Bring me to him!" Leylin's voice was very calm and it was impossible to tell if he was agitated or gleeful. However, this situation evidently unnerved Rodent further.

"Yes! Yes, my Lord, I'll bring you there now!"

Rodent sprawled flat on the ground, nose right on the ground as he sniffed hard.

After a few minutes, he confirmed a direction, "It's here. Please follow me, my Lord!"

Concealed under the the crimson mask, Leylin lightly chuckled. What he had given Rodent was the scent of Pierre, who was in charge of the merit points exchange centre.

As the first Magus to be exploited by Leylin, his scent had been kept for future purposes.

But from what he had heard from Pierre, what he had plundered was not the main warehouse. The real one was something that even Pierre did not have the authority to bring others into.

This was an opportunity that was hard to come by!

Leylin gathered that the items in that main warehouse were definitely top-grade items or ingredients that Four Seasons Garden had found in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane.

If he managed to obtain all of that, it would likely be enough for him to advance to a rank 2 Magus and even above that.

At this thought, his breathing began to silently roughen.

The large rodent-like Magus had no real talent in terms of fighting skill, but it was his skill in detecting an opponent that Thousand Meddling Hands required his expertise for.

Leylin followed this large rodent and bypassed several secret passageways. There were, of course, several alarms and magic traps, but they were all destroyed by Leylin.

The main function of these traps was to alert the light Magi of intruders, and summon a large number of Magi from the Four Seasons Garden.

As they went further in, even Reynold would be startled into action. With a rank 2 Magus like him around, things were as safe as it could be.

But the situation now was different. Four Seasons Garden's headquarters at the secret plane was now in a state of confusion and chaos. Reynold, the rank 2 Magus in charge, had now been lured away by a rank 2 Magus from Thousand Meddling Hands.

In a situation where the main forces were gone, just a few dull traps and spells were just a joke to Leylin!

"We're here! My lord, if my senses don't fail me, the owner of the scent is within this passageway."

After going through a maze filled with traps and crossroads, the large rodent pointed to a green passage at the opposite side and stated with confidence.

This passageway looked extremely narrow, to the point that only one person could cross at a time. Within the passageway, there were innumerable vines that twined together to create a green wall, and there were even powerful energy waves emitting from it. The aura it emitted was vaguely familiar and was something that Leylin had felt not too long ago — it belonged to Reynold, the rank 2 Magus!

“It can’t be wrong! This is the place!”

Leylin inspected the restriction spell formation put into place, his heartbeat quickening.

As the person in charge at the merit points exchange centre, Pierre would definitely return to the main warehouse and oversee it. As this place was kept in a secret location and had a large number of defensive spell formations, it was much safer as compared to the outside, where danger lurked in every corner. Hence, Leylin was eighty percent sure that he had chosen to hide out here.

Leylin had gotten Rodent to find his scent and was betting on this happening! Now, with the appearance of Reynold’s, a rank 2 Magus, defensive spell formations, it confirmed his conjecture.

Even if it wasn’t the main warehouse, there were sure to be valuable things around if a rank 2 Magus had attempted to prevent others from going in there.

With a lengthy whistle, his hands turned red and he activated the full power of Crimson Palm. Huge blood-red claws carried crimson flames about it as they struck the wall of vines.

*Rumble!

Immense energy waves shot in all directions, and the passageway shook a little, rocks and dust falling from the ceiling.

After the dust cleared, the rodent-like Magus who was hiding behind Leylin saw a hole that was as large as a basketball above the entrance on the wall.

This hole was pitch-black inside, with traces of crimson flames burning and extending within.

Crash! Green light flashed and the entrance seemed to come to life, innumerable tendrils twisting together and filling in the hole. Rays of green light was emitted from the vines and they were entangled together, green and right mixing together before they died down.

“The defense formation set up by a rank 2 Magus is indeed not simple!” Leylin sighed in admiration, with no hint of disappointment in his eyes. Crimson Palm was just one of the spells he used to conceal his identity. It was definitely not representative of what he was capable of!

The current him had already approached the realm of a rank 2 Magus. Even if he were to meet one, there was a high chance of him escaping. A formation set up by a mere rank 2 Magus was naturally not anything he worried about.

“A.I. Chip! Have they been recorded?”

Under the mask, a hint of blue flashed in his eyes as he enquired inwardly.

[Recorded 89% of the information regarding the spell formation. Currently simulating experiments and calculating its weak point.]

The A.I. Chip intoned loyally and then presented a few points where the amount of energy present was scarcer.

Usually, when a defense formation was not activated, it was difficult for the A.I. Chip to obtain such specific data. However, through Leylin’s attack using Crimson Palm, the formation began to operate and displayed all sorts of energy waves that the A.I. Chip scanned and gathered in detail. This was how it was able to see through it and ascertain its weak point!

“So that’s it!” Leylin peered closely at the diagram pointing out the places where energy signals were weaker, and the crimson rays were produced from his hands once again.

“Crimson Palm!” The giant blood-red claws struck again! Sharp, large flaming apparitions hit the entrance amidst the vines, 3cm below the centre of the door.

Bang! The entrance began to shake fiercely, and large numbers of vines devoted their energies to repairing the harm caused.

“Hah!” Leylin’s arms did not stop moving as the crimson claws were used again, striking a few areas on the door.

Creak! Creak! The door could not bear the abuse and even the veins began to slow in their movements.

“Now!” Blood-red light flashed in his eyes.

Rumble! The areas on the door that had been hit began to burn fiercely with crimson flames, forming straight lines and converging.

Weng Weng!

A huge crimson fireball appeared, and with a specific frequency, it bombarded the very middle of the vined entrance.

Tsssss!

As if someone had torn countless pieces of parchment, the green-vined entrance crumbled in pieces. The original healthy green turned into a wilted yellow as if its life force was drained as each piece fell to the ground.

Ka-cha! The whole entrance was in shatters.

Leylin’s footsteps did not stop and he immediately entered.

Following behind him was the Rodent Magus who seemed to be struggling with its decision to follow. Its foot raised several times, but in the end, it took a huge breath and left this place.

“You actually found this place?”

After going through the passageway, Leylin came into a place that seemed like a small warehouse. The first thing he saw was someone dressed like an appraiser. He even had on gilded glasses and was standing there silently.

At this moment, the expression on Pierre’s face was strange; he looked as if a weight had been lifted from his shoulders. He smiled, “I’ve been worrying about how to tell my superiors about you breaking into the exchange centre. I guess I don’t have to worry about that anymore...”

He then gave Leylin a profound look. “You must be someone I know well, to be able to get here so quickly! Could you tell me your real identity?”

.....

Leylin did not seem to have any intentions of letting Pierre die knowing his secrets. Boom! He fiercely took one step forward, and dark energy particles wrapped he and Pierre within like a fog...

Sssii! Thick fog spread, but there was not the slightest sound produced from the inside.

Minutes later, Leylin walked out calmly, and then entered the treasured warehouse that belonged to Four Seasons Garden.

Chapter 242: Leather Pouch

After Leylin left, the fog gradually dispersed, leaving behind a greyish-white statue of a Magus.

This statue looked exactly the same as Pierre, with a look of astonishment on his face.

Pak! Pak!

Innumerable cracks began to extend across the statue like spider webs.

Crack!

Immediately after, the stone sculpture broke into little pieces with a loud sound.

Leylin was now a peak rank 1 Magus. With the added bonus from his bloodline, even a regular peak rank 1 Magus was not a match for him when he went all out.

However, he did not have any time to waste on thinking about this. His eyes were already attracted to the items before him.

This warehouse was incredibly small and was only a dozen or so square metres.

On a stone counter, only three items laid there. Though they looked to be unremarkable, they must be something of value for them to be placed here.

Leylin scrutinised the items on the counter.

On the left most was something that looked like a leather pouch. It was completely black and even had some detailed silver designs. Though it looked very ordinary, it seemed to have a slight wave that was rather unique emitting from the pouch. Even the Giant Kemoyin Serpent bloodline within him had a strange response to it.

“From this feeling, it probably implies that this was made using the material from some kind of ancient creature.”

Leylin rubbed his chin, the gears in his brain turning, “Something made

by the hide of some ancient being. It doesn't seem to be any offensive-type magic artifact either. Could it be...?"

In that moment, a slight possibility flashed past Leylin's mind, causing his breathing to become a little rough.

"A.I. Chip! Scan the decorative designs on the pouch and compare it with pictures of ancient beings!"

[Bepp! Mission established, initiating scan...]

The A.I. Chip loyally intoned. Now, with a specific catalogue to refer to, the A.I. Chip immediately found an answer.

[Results of comparison: Ancient Creatures-Similarity to the skin of Void White-Eyed Snake: 92.6%. Tailless Ouroboros 46.9%. Void Raven: 12.3%]

"As I thought, it's the Void White-Eyed Snake!" Glee emerged on Leylin's face.

Even in ancient times, this sort of ancient being was extremely precious. This was due to the Void White-Eyed Snake's innate ability that had to do with space! Hence, its skin was often used to manufacture all kinds of storage items.

"A.I. Chip! Look up all information there is regarding the Void White-Eyed Snake!" Leylin ordered.

[Void White-Eyed Snake! Ancient being, the darling of the void. After maturing, it can awaken its abilities that have to do with space, gaining a powerful innate skill similar to travelling through time! Its skin is often processed and made into storage items due to the void runes that naturally form on its body. Able to contain items that are a thousand, or even ten thousand times the size of its main body. However, due to excessive hunting by ancient Magi, it became extinct in the middle of the Ancient Era. Source: The Illustrated Handbook of Ancient Beings, World Magus History, 37th revision.]

"As I thought, it's the legendary space-type magic artifact!"

Leylin's eyes were fixed on the black pouch with a fiery gaze.

For a large organisation like Four Seasons Garden, this item was not essential and only served to raise its value. However, for a Magus like him who was used to travelling alone, it was an indispensable item!

If he had had the pouch previously, he definitely would not have left anything behind for the other dark Magi and instead, chosen to take everything for himself.

Especially in his situation where he was planning to escape at any moment, his agility would increase by a large amount.

One could say that of all the items in this treasure trove, if he really needed to make a decision, Leylin would unhesitatingly choose this one!

However, Leylin could still contain his desires.

Suppressing the impulse of making his move immediately, he glanced at the two items beside the black pouch.

In the middle of the stone counter was a very thick, black volume that looked like a dictionary. At the side, one could see it was tattered.

“This must be the book that Four Seasons Garden obtained from the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane. As this was left behind by the Magus who constructed this secret plane, it must be even more valuable.”

These were items that only large-scale organisations had a use for. If a Magus like him who worked alone set his hands on this, it would only backfire on him.

At the most right, beside the thick volume, there was a black honeycomb that looked somewhat like a charcoal briquette. On the bumpy surface, there were beads of dark green pearls embedded in the holes. It looked rather bizarre.

“Though the volume is the most precious items out of these three, the pouch is still the highest priority to me!”

Leylin solemnly approached the stone counter.

All items stored in a Magus’ warehouse were sure to be guarded by defense spell formations. Not only would they be set up around the item,

the item itself would also have a spell formation on it.

These spell formations usually had the ability to self-destruct, and the moment the method of approaching it was wrong, the item would be destroyed and cause the thieves to leave with empty hands.

However, dark Magi like Leylin were used to these situations and all had talent and skill in unsealing these spell formations.

Leylin, who had been in the other warehouse, had used dark Magi's unsealing techniques and successfully obtained a few treasured items.

However, the setup of this spell formation was evidently more complicated than that in the other warehouse. This was especially so for these three items, which definitely would have additional spell designs on it.

With runes that bound the items to the counter, even Leylin, who had help from the A.I. Chip could feel a headache coming on.

"It's a pity! This is the main warehouse and even that dead man, Pierre's token and his authority is useless here!"

Leylin heaved a sigh and, from a small pouch, carefully poured the purple powder into his hands.

Whoosh!

Gusts of wind suddenly blew in the room, and little purple drafts were produced from Leylin's hand, gathering at the surface of the stone counter.

This was an unsealing spell design he had obtained from Thousand Meddling Hands, specially designed to deal with these sort of self-destructing seals. After modification from the A.I. Chip, its effectiveness had increased many times over!

However, along with the A.I. Chip's modifications, the difficulty in using this spell design had risen over ten times. One needed to be very precise and strict, and one could not be even a millisecond too late. In other words, it was a zero-error precision technique.

Hence, on the south coast, perhaps only Leylin was able to use this unsealing method.

Purple gas flowed like water, coating the counter.

The runes on the counter merely flickered a little and then died down, not detecting any abnormalities around.

Waiting until the moment purple enshrouded the counter, Leylin's eyes flashed resolutely.

"Now is the time! Magic transformation!"

He fiercely chanted a few awkward-sounding syllables, and strange ripples suddenly began to flash upon the counter.

Weng Weng!

The purple streams of air solidified in a moment, turning into black, sticky liquid that surrounded the counter.

Only at this moment did the runes on the counter react and it struck back with its more powerful and violent attack. A series of lights exploded, almost breaking through the thick black liquid that shrouded it.

"Cover!" Under Leylin's instructions, the black liquid was like oil and completely covered the counter, rays of lights from various runes completely disappearing under it.

"Now!"

Leylin produced thin blue threads from his right hand, which flew out like silk, and bound the black leather pouch.

The thin blue threads seemed alive as they went towards the leather pouch, a series of slight popping sounds emitting as they moved.

Most of Leylin's energy was spent on this unsealing spell design, to the point that his forehead was drenched with sweat.

Finally, the silk-like threads bound the leather pouch tightly and looked like a blue cocoon.

Leylin grabbed with his hands, and the blue cocoon automatically flew

away from the counter and into his hands.

“Alright! It’s a success!” Leylin exclaimed gleefully. Now, the black oil-like fluid seemed to be unable to cover the runes on the counter any longer, with hints of light passing through.

“I’ll be quick about this. Once more!”

Leylin pointed again, and thin blue threads headed for the honeycomb-like coal briquet.

For Leylin, the book in the middle was likely the diary of the ancient Magus who created Eternal River Plain’s secret plain. If he obtained it, it would only cause him endless troubles. Rather than fighting for that, he should take a gamble on something else!

The thin blue threads were soft and yet firm as they edged towards the honeycomb-like coal briquet.

All of a sudden, the counter trembled, and much of the black liquid was flung off.

A series of yellow rays from runes were revealed.

Weng Weng! Yellow runes flew into the air, pouncing on the two remaining items on the counter.

“Go!” Steeling his expression, the black oil that covered the counter began to boil, transforming into a small black shield, situated atop the coal briquet.

Ka-cha!

The yellow rune slammed into the little shield and, seemingly having gone against a firm hindrance, it bounced off.

At the other side, the yellow rune flitted into the black volume due to the lack of obstruction.

Huala!

The surface of the black book flashed and began to split bit by bit. Within a few seconds, the entire book automatically turned into flying

ashes.

Pak!

At this moment, the blue threads finally bound the coal briquet and it flew into Leylin's hands.

Rumble!

Immediately after, the entire counter crumbled before Leylin, turning into dust.

Chapter 243: Protection

Looking at the self-destruction of the stone counter and the black volume, Leylin's expression did not contain even a trace of pity.

As far as he was concerned, the biggest reward was already in his hands, so even if he was not able to get the other treasures, he felt no regret.

Bang! bang!

Two blue cocoons disintegrated right in front of Leylin's eyes, exposing the two items that were within them.

Leylin calmly took them both.

The Void White-Eyed Snake's snakeskin used to make the black leather pouch felt soft to the touch, and continuously spread a warm feeling to Leylin.

The silver designs upon it felt as if they were alive; they continuously moved about on the surface of the leather pouch, emitting a brilliant and dazzling radiance.

"It is worthy of being known as the Void White-Eyed Snake, or as the rumors call it, the darling of the void. A fully grown snake has its own space runes on its body..."

Leylin sighed in admiration, his fingers constantly caressing the surface of the leather pouch.

"What a pity that the Void White-Eyed Snake is not a creature with a bloodline. Otherwise, even though this leather had been solidified by the ancient Magi and lost all its vitality, I still could have attempted to purify its bloodline..."

Leylin sighed regretfully, and then he looked at the thing that resembled a honeycomb-shaped coal briquet.

A dark green, pearl-like object was embedded in the surface of this honeycomb shaped briquet—something that strangely resembled an eye—and after looking at it, Leylin abruptly felt some dizziness.

“This thing is very strange! It seems that I must look for more data in the future so that I can analyse this thing’s components...”

Leylin vaguely thought as such. A thread of spiritual force crept out onto the surface of the leather pouch made from the Void White-Eyed Snake’s skin.

Crash!

The knot at the neck of the leather pouch broke open, exposing a really dark green hole. Leylin even momentarily felt as if his own spiritual force had locked onto some odd space.

The size of this space was not very large; it was only the size of two or three rooms. On all sides, there was a vast expanse of white lustre. Furthermore, the space runes that he had previously seen on the leather pouch were continuously roving about on the surface.

Through his spiritual force, Leylin felt that he could seemingly place any lifeless object in this space.

Following which, he immediately looked at the honeycomb briquet beside the pouch.

Xiu! The honeycomb briquet quickly faded from his palm and soon a hexagonal object with countless pearls on its surface hovered in the space that he had explored before.

“This is a curiously unusual feeling. Moreover, the weight of the leather pouch has also not increased...” Leylin weighed the pouch.

Just as he was about to close the leather pouch, a message was sent through a thread of spiritual force from deep inside the pouch.

“Successor! Congratulations on getting my final work of art—the Insatiable Bottomless Pouch! I originally created this item so that it could become a magic equipment that would allow my name to be known through the ages! Unfortunately, it was stuck at the level of a high-grade magic artifact! I hope you will treat it properly and also help to upgrade it.....a namesake of myself, Meypes!”

"Meypes! I have not heard of such a name; he must have been a Potions Master from ancient times!"

Leylin also took the full measure of the first high-grade magic artifact that he had taken into his possession.

In the south coast, inferior grade magic artifacts were used by acolytes and mediocre rank 1 Magi. On the other hand, semi-converted elemental Magi and peak rank 1 Magi all used medium grade magic artifacts.

Only rank 2 Magi or those genuinely privileged might have a high grade magic artifact!

As for those magic equipment that were superior to magic artifacts, they were the highly kept secret treasures of every large powerful faction! Even Leylin hadn't heard of any information pertaining to them.

And now, even Leylin had a high-grade magic artifact. Even though it was not of the offensive type, it provided him with assistance and was of much more worth than an offense-type magic artifact.

Leylin swept a glance over the other goods in the surroundings.

Surrounding the black counter, there were several small wooden shelves. Although there were not many items on top of these shelves, and they weren't comparable to those 3 items on the black counter, if they were to be placed outside, they would still be good things that would attract the attention of semi-converted elemental Magi or even peak rank 1 Magi!

"Since I am here, these all are mine."

Leylin laughed, and a great amount of black fog turned into small snakes, which then pounced onto the shelves all around him....

A dozen or so minutes later, Leylin, with a smiling expression on his face, walked out of this store.

This time around, his harvest was plentiful. Even though some precious items were destroyed due to magic spells, what he had seized amounted to 80% of the hidden treasures!

Those several precious materials inside caused a sparkle in Leylin's eyes.

There were even some materials that his currently updated database did not have any records of.

Leylin made a concrete estimate that the value of those materials would amount to at least 10 million magic crystals.

“These resources are more than enough to help me advance and become a rank 2 Magus, and will also be beneficial to me for a long time ...”

Leylin felt the black leather pouch that had been tucked away in his bosom, and the grin on his face only intensified.

His biggest gain this time was this Insatiable Bottomless Pouch, a storage-type, high-grade magic artifact. As far as rank 2 Magi were concerned, they could only obtain such an item through good fortune; it could not be sought after!

Currently, the leather pouch tucked in Leylin’s bosom had a dusty, weathered surface, making it look like an unremarkable item. The previously seen illusory silvery space runes were now completely concealed.

After having received the message of the Potions Master from inside the pouch, Leylin could easily control the leather pouch and had modified its exterior form.

Currently, when seen from the outside, this leather pouch just appeared as an ordinary leather waist pouch, with no energy waves. This ensured that people would not associate this pouch with a spatial artifact. Apart from that, this space had a size equivalent to 2 or 3 rooms. After Leylin had stored inside all the goods he had previously taken from that storehouse, and also added the stuff that he had on his person, all of it only occupied one corner of the space.

This leather pouch would be of enormous assistance to Leylin in future trips and adventures.

“Oh! Rodent! That is one clever chap....”

Leylin saw that Rodent had been missing for a long time and that the entire passage was deathly still; the floor of the passage was strewn with

broken bricks and dust from the damaged wall.

At a far off region, minute tremors were felt from the bombardment of spells.

Of course, during this time, on the surface, the Thousand Meddling Hands' dark Magi and the Four Seasons Garden's light Magi were still fighting for their own goals.

"Not bad, it is time for the dark Magi to retreat!"

Leylin calmly felt for his golden pocket watch, saw the time, and sneered.

He, who had been long within the Thousand Meddling Hands, knew that although the dark Magi's attacks were fierce at the start – so much so that even white Magi couldn't resist – it was solely because they were covert and sudden attacks. After the passage of some time, the light Magi union would surely send some assistance.

Additionally, the dark Magi were basically very selfish, and after having gotten what they came here for, they were hardly willing to do their utmost in the rest of this battle.

"Anyways, Giant and the 'Boss' behind him must be wondering why I haven't yet destroyed the huge metal gate's consciousness."

The Eternal River Plains' secret plane was a very stable land, especially around the two regions' huge metal gates.

Leylin perceived that the runes on the metal gate alone were very problematic. Moreover, the huge metal gate had been made from some kind of recovery metal; it had the ability of automatic recovery. Unless that entire metal gate was destroyed in a split-second, or an attack that was an unusually high degree of power was used to bombard the gate, it would automatically rebuild itself.

According to A.I. Chip's estimations, only rank 4 Morning Star Magi or Magi of higher levels could destroy the entrances to the secret plane.

However, in the current south coast, it was unknown whether Magi of these ranks still existed or not!

Leylin shook his head, and then chose a path, before vanishing into the darkness.

.....

Sssii!

A whirlwind of green fog spiraled forth, tearing down on the building, and causing large noises as it eroded the building.

There was an occasional magic radiance that flashed past, and all under the green fog was turned black until the building crumbled. Afterwards, the green fog turned into a green liquid.

Within the centre of the green fog, Giant was crushing the heads of the Four Seasons Garden's Magi with his palms.

"What is going on? Why hasn't it detonated yet?" he looked in the direction of Reynold's office, his look one of impatience.

If the core of the consciousness of the metal gate was destroyed, a psionic storm would occur, and the secret plane's entrance would receive irreversible damage.

But now?

Giant looked in the direction of the metal gate, where it was still standing majestically at the core of the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters. Even if random magic spells used by Magi during this battle had hit the gate, they only caused slight fluctuations; it was just like the oceans of ancient times, it concealed within it a ginormous power and existed calmly for countless years.

"It seems Leylin has faced some problems inside! But, I still have a backup plan ..."

A strange expression flickered upon Giant's face.

.....

Inside Reynold's office.

At this moment, from the headquarters outside the plane, Wade hurried

here, along with some magicians.

Seeing the intact seal, this golden-haired Magus couldn't help but let loose a sigh of relief. "Mentor said that the seal is still intact and that there is no problem within the core consciousness...."

Immediately, he yelled at the magicians behind him, "Quickly, stand guard here. The danger level is 5A! This command is issued jointly by Mentor Reynold, and myself, the envoy of headquarters!"

"Agreed, my Lord!" All the magicians behind him bowed in acceptance, and they all scattered to protect the spell formation within the office.

These magicians all wore blood-red colored armour, which was inscribed with designs of thorny brambles. Their every move emitted a bloody aura, causing the other Magi's hearts to palpitate.

This was Four Seasons Garden's core power – the Four Seasons Corps! Every member of it was a powerful Magus with an elemental conversion of 60% or more, was proficient in many kinds of secret techniques that could increase their power to the equivalent of an elemental essence conversion of 70% or more, and could also use cooperative attacks.

This time, if it were not for Wade being made the envoy from the headquarters, they likely wouldn't have even come.

"My Lord, should we also allocate some people to go to the merit points exchange center? According to information, previously, the S-rank criminal from the Thousand Meddling Hands, Blood Rogue, had made an appearance there...."

Chapter 244: Assassination

A spectacled female Magus, who seemed like a secretary, and was holding a thick notebook and quill pen, followed behind Wade.

Only at this point did she seem to remember something.

This suggestion obviously gave Wade an idea. He glanced at the members of the team he had brought from the Four Seasons Garden, took a look at Reynold's office, and eventually rejected the proposal, though he looked as if he was struggling with the idea.

"I can't do that! The things here are more important! Even if it were Mentor Reynold, he would choose to defend this area as well!"

Wade gazed out of the window. Through the fixed spying channel, he could see that the Four Seasons Garden was already engulfed in a sea of fire, within which countless dark Magi in black robes were plundering as they liked.

"Damn it! The leader of the defense squad died in battle, vice team leader Dolorin is nowhere to be found, and the leaders of the hunting and battle teams are busy. If not, I would be able to assign a few of our Magi to give support there..."

"My lord, don't worry. Lord Pierre, who's in charge of the merit points exchange centre, is also a peak rank 1 Magus. Blood Rogue won't be able to pass through so easily..."

Beside Wade, that secretary with an hourglass figure adjusted her glasses, trying to console him.

"It's too late. Pierre has already died in battle! Our warehouse is going to fall into the hands of those wretched dark Magi!"

Wade slammed his fist onto Reynold's desk, leaving behind a deep imprint of a fist.

"Teacher! How great would it be if you were here..." All of a sudden, weak thoughts began appearing in Wade's mind.

Shortly after, he couldn't help but laugh at his moment of weakness. However, his hands were still trembling within the sleeves of his robes. Due to their superior spiritual force and senses, compared to the regular man, Magi's premonitions were quite accurate. Though they seldom appeared, it was a real possibility that such premonitions would actually come to pass.

"What? Pierre died in battle? How can that be? He's a peak rank 1 Magus! Could it be that there's another rank 2 dark Magus fighting here?"

The surrounding Magi became restless at the thought. Peak rank 1 Magi were, in normal circumstances, the most powerful beings in the south coast. In a situation where rank 2 Magus did not appear, they were the rulers, goals, and idols of most Magi.

However, what they had thought to have been a sturdy mountain they could count on had collapsed, leaving the Magi present in shock.

"No! Calm down, everyone!" The moment the words left his mouth, Wade realised that he had misspoken, and quickly tried to steer the conversation away.

"Though the dark Magi have a very aggressive approach this time, thus leading to a huge loss in our members and resources, please believe in the Four Seasons Garden. Believe in the elders, and believe in my mentor, the rank 2 Magus, Lord Reynold."

"Just hang on for fifteen more minutes! The Lightning Fury from the light Magi alliance will arrive, and once that happens, we'll make the dark Magi who killed our friends and family pay the price!"

Each word was dripping with blood, arousing feelings of hatred from the Magi present. Faced with a common enemy, the Magi calmed down.

Upon seeing that the situation had stabilised, Wade could only sigh.

The light Magi of the Four Seasons Garden were similar to a few scientific researchers that Leylin had known. For them, their main work was to experiment, not to kill, and when they engaged with dark Magi, these official Magi performed very poorly.

Besides the few small teams that were in charge of battling and defending, most of the other light Magi who were in charge of exploring the secret plane and taking care of the plants had died.

At this thought, Wade glanced at the teams from the Four Seasons Garden who were clad in crimson armour.

They looked extremely calm, not even revealing the slightest change in expression even after hearing the news of Pierre dying in battle, and of all of their resource warehouses being taken over by the enemy. They were still loyally going about their duties.

“Fortunately, the Four Seasons Garden still has a trump card! With the members of the Four Seasons Corps here, at the very least, the core of the gate to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane will be safe!”

Wade consoled himself.

As long as the core body of consciousness was in their hands, the light Magi of the Four Seasons Garden would still be in control of the gate to the secret plane. In that case, even if they suffered a devastating loss, all could eventually be regained.

It was with this in mind that after seeing the formidable attack by the dark Magi in Experiment Zone 3, Wade had chosen to pull back his forces and relocate all his men to this place. Everything was in preparation to defend the core body of consciousness to the death.

This type of core body of consciousness could only exist within the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. It could not be too far away from the platinum gate, and it was for this reason that a few light Magi organisations were stationed nearby to protect it, rather than simply bringing it back to the headquarters for safekeeping.

Ka-cha!

Ka-cha!

All of a sudden, the crisp sound of bones breaking was heard twice.

Two Magi fell, shock still apparent on their faces, while they still had

their eyes on the comrades that they had fought alongside.

“Matt, Ernie! What are you doing?”

The surrounding Magi quickly retreated, fearfully roaring at the two Magi whose hands were dripping with blood.

Shua shua shua! What was even faster was Four Season’s Corps, who were in the blood-red armour. They turned into a few red streaks and encircled these two Magi.

“Hehe! Every time I see you pitiful light Magi, I immediately connect you guys to meek little lambs crushed in a lion’s mouth.”

Amidst the sneers and taunting, the bodies of the two light Magi underwent a very bizarre change.

Pieces of skin floated to the ground like leaves, revealing two foreign figures. One of them was bald, spare a few pitiful strands of hair at the top of his head, while the other was short and obese, with incisors that were unique to mice.

These two supposed light Magi were actually impersonators!

“It’s them! Thousand Faces and Shadow! They’re rank 5A fugitives, and are on the wanted list! Be extremely careful; it’s said that they are experts in shapeshifting, and can disguise themselves to resemble multiple different Magi within seconds, and without being caught.” Out of all the light Magi present, someone recognised the two dark Magi.

Of course, the real Matt and Ernie had long since been killed. As for when this had happened, none of the light Magi had any clue at all.

“Hehe! The trump card of the Four Seasons Garden, the Four Seasons Corps? I’ve long since heard of this name!” Even while surrounded, the bald Thousand Faces did not seem nervous at all. His tiny eyes calmly scanned the area, and then snickered, “What a pity! I don’t seem to see anyone particularly exceptional within your group.”

In response to such taunts, the members of the Four Seasons Corps gave a single answer.

Huala!

The armour on their body vibrated, blood-red thorny runes seeming to come to life as they shot into the air, forming thistle-like apparitions.

The innumerable apparitions merged together and formed a dense cage, trapping Thousand Faces and Shadow within it.

“Haha... The only thing you have worth showing off is this thorny cage...”

Thousand Faces couldn't stop laughing, but from the fine beads of sweat on his forehead, it was evident that he was not as relaxed as he tried to present himself.

“Shadow, are you done yet? The members of the Four Seasons Corps aren't so easily fooled. With just a slight misstep, you might even die here.”

Thousand Faces silently transmitted a message to Shadow.

“Soon! I'm almost there. I need silence!” Shadow's answer revealed that his throat was parched, and an obvious sense of urgency.

“Alright. If not for the generous rewards that the organisation is giving us, I wouldn't do this sort of thing even if my life was threatened!” Shadow finally spoke.

Boom!

The huge, dull, red thorny cage kept compressing and shrinking the area within, and countless little thorns appeared, which, like bees, headed straight for the two dark Magi within.

Bzz bzz! Tzz tzz!

The tiny thistle thorns were like flying needles as they relentlessly pricked into the bodies of the two dark Magi, producing spots of fresh crimson blood.

Strangely enough, their expressions were unchanged, as if their bodies were not their own.

“Be careful!” One of the members of the Four Seasons Corps warned, and the cage that was full of barbed thistles made contact with the two dark Magi within.

Woo woo!

At that instant, the surface of the two Magi’s bodies turned black, and a ring of fine red tassels exploded out of the duo’s bodies.

“This...” Wade was slightly suspicious about this, and he seemed to remember something, quickly yelling, “Get out of the way!”

However, it was much too late. The two charred bodies smirked, extending their arms.

Boom!

The tremendous sound waves from the explosion engulfed the office and were followed by a huge amount of black smoke.

In the ensuing waves from the explosion, all of Reynold’s furniture and documents turned into dust, and what had originally been his work desk was sliced in two, revealing the sealing spell formation underneath it.

“Clones and a high-energy bomb!”

Seeing the office that was in complete disarray, as well as the many Magi who had fallen, Wade grit his teeth.

“My Lord, are you alright?” The frightened female secretary Magus hastily ran over.

“Don’t worry, I’m fine...” Wade waved his hands.

After that, an odd expression appeared on his face, and his robes began to float.

The plants that had originally been mere decorations seemed to come to life, turning into vines that grabbed hold of the female Magus in front of him.

“You... My Lord! What are you doing?”

The female secretary had been held in such a position that her legs were

spread wide apart, presenting a humiliating pose in front of Wade. She still held traces of embarrassment and confusion in her eyes.

“Thousand Faces! Don’t try to swindle me! This female Magus was on my bed just last night; I’m a lot more knowledgeable about her body than you will ever be!” Wade retreated several steps, coldly viewing the female secretary Magus caught in the vine.

“Hehe! I guess I was found out...”

A maniacal smile appeared on the secretary’s face, followed by a fluctuation that revealed a bald head.

“It’s a pity that you forgot about me!”

The yellow floorboard under Wade’s feet suddenly flipped over, and a dagger that was flashing with silvery-white light stabbed towards his abdomen!

Chapter 245: A Blink Of An Eye

This silver dagger was obviously a magic artifact; it even had a menacing, silvery glint on its blade.

Wade's innate defense spell immediately materialised into an armour of vines to protect him, but he was still pierced through by the silver white dagger.

As much as Wade was not resigned to his fate, he crashed to the ground, dyeing the area in a pool of red.

The brown yellow boards contorted, finally turning into the shape of a black figure.

"You guys had only noticed the changes that I, Thousand Faces, had made, but you forgot that the darkness can turn into a shadow and attach itself to any object..."

Wade was severely injured, and did not have much spiritual force or magic power left, so naturally, the vines that bound Thousand Faces had now slackened.

Thousand Faces massaged his wrist as he smirked.

Ka-Cha!

Suddenly, a flashing arc of red light pierced through his neck, causing blood to spurt out from his throat.

"It's a pity that you have also underestimated us from the Four Seasons Garden!"

Pu! A member of the Four Seasons Corps, who seemed to be a team leader, retrieved his blood-red sword and pointed it at the location where the shadow was.

With another flash of red light, the thorny prison appeared once more, encircling Wade.

Not only could the prison of thorns be used to ensnare and kill enemies, it was also used as a form of a barrier for allies.

“Protect the Lord! Leave him to me!” This team leader exclaimed.

Shortly after, four long, blood-red shadows pierced the skies, appearing outside the prison of thorns.

“Thousand Faces died just like that!” Shadow looked around in disbelief.

In accordance with the current mess in the office, many Magi had lost their ability to move after that high-energy bomb. However, with the protection of their blood-red armour and innate spells, the members of the Four Seasons Corps did not receive serious injuries. They had already moved and completely blocked Shadow’s escape route.

“Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Damn it!”

Shadow constantly surveyed his surroundings and roared with rage. “Despicable! I was deceived! What happened to the support that the organisation promised me? Where is it?”

Based on this situation, it seemed that Thousand Meddling Hands had issued them missions, but hidden a lot of important information. They had probably also promised some false rewards.

“Hmph! They are truly dark Magi! When it comes to this sort of situation, they’ll only care about themselves!”

The leader of the Four Seasons Corps snorted and then pointed at the place with the seal. “Team 2 is to guard that area. Do not let anyone get in there!”

A small group from the Four Seasons Corps immediately dashed to the seal spell formation, and a red circle of light brightened again.

The leader waved his blood-red longsword, aiming it at Shadow.

“You make me angry! In the fifty years that I’ve been carrying out missions, it’s the first time that my target has been hurt! Are you ready to pay the price?”

Energy particles constantly shimmered around his body as a formidable spiritual force emitting from his body and engulfing Shadow.

His gaze was especially sharp as if he was staring at prey that he had

settled on, which caused Shadow to shudder in fear.

“Wait, wait... We can discuss this. I know a lot of information about the Thousand Meddling Hands. We can work together...”

Shadow yelled out insincere words that attracted attention, a layer of magic that was so thin it was almost invisible flickering under his feet.

Shua!

His body transformed into a black streak, basically surpassing the limits of what the naked eye could see. In an instant, he charged out of the circle of the Four Seasons Corps Magi that had trapped him within.

Shadow flickered a few times and separated into a few similar-looking black shadows that dashed in various directions.

Ka ka!

In response to this, the team leader merely laughed condescendingly and fiercely stabbed his blood-red longsword into a wooden floorboard in front of him.

Ripples that were like ocean waves extended throughout the area.

A brown “human figure” sprung out of the ripples.

Rumble! The leader quickly came before Shadow, his blood-red longsword slashing across and forming a bright arc.

Ka-cha! The transparent armour and pendant at Shadow’s chest shattered just like that. The longsword then ruthlessly sliced into his chest, spilling fresh blood everywhere.

Pak! Shadow fell heavily, and the leader of the Four Seasons Corps approached. With his right foot, which was clad in a metal shoe, he stepped on Shadow’s chest. “Run! Why are you running?”

Ka-cha! Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

Tiny, and yet piercing, sounds of bones breaking was heard from Shadow’s chest.

Large amounts of foam and blood spilled out of the corner of Shadow’s

mouth as if he wanted to say something.

That round of intense battle had happened so quickly. In almost ten or so seconds, all of this had happened, and the Magi who had fallen were unable to react at all.

At this point, the faint black mist had yet to completely disperse.

“Hm? Wait, no!” The leader who was stepping on the chest of Shadow suddenly turned, his expression changing to one of alarm and anger.

Then, he simply gave up on Shadow and rushed to the front of the seal spell formation.

“Blood Restraint!” The leader’s large hands grabbed forward into the air! Shortly after, a light green human figure was snatched out of thin air.

This figure was very slender and small. It was like a child, with green mist surrounding it.

“Hehe, what keen senses! It seems you’re just one step away from becoming a peak rank 1 Magus!”

The person shrouded in green praised with a little boy’s voice.

Pak! Pak! Pak!

A bunch of crystal balls that shimmered with light were thrown out.

Crash! Crash! Crash! Intense explosions sounded in front of the leader one after another, the immense shockwaves causing him to retreat.

Green mist gathered and turned into a sticky fluid, adhering to the leader’s body like superglue.

“Damn it, be careful! Their target has always been the sealing spell formation!” This leader had been caught by the sticky fluid and could only shout.

“Hehe, it’s too late!”

The little boy within the mist transformed into an apparition, which the red thorny spell formation had no effect on.

He dashed into the interior of the thorny spell formation, large amounts

of green mist emitting from his body.

*Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! The four members of the Four Seasons Corps in charge of defense fell to the ground, green mushrooms and spots growing on their faces.

“What a bunch of idiots, this leaves me no choice but to take action myself!”

While speaking, his movements were quick, and he took out a red crystal that was the exact same as the one that Leylin had, pressing it down towards the heart of the spell formation!

This was a self-destructing spell design that completely matched with the spell formation. The moment it was activated, the whole spell formation would destroy itself, along with the body of consciousness that it was attached to.

The moment the core body of consciousness self-destructed, the platinum gate which was the entrance to the secret plane would collapse.

The situation had become extremely dire!

The boy's eyes were glinting with excitement. He could already envision the destruction of the entrance to the secret plane, and the image of the light Magi's flustered and exasperated expressions.

“Gotcha!”

At this moment, a hand that was like white jade emerged from the air and grabbed the little boy's hand, black fog forming a python that crushed the red crystal into powder!

Leylin dispelled Shadow Stealth and quickly grabbed the boy.

The moment his hand touched the little boy, Leylin's palm burst out into crimson flames, burning the green fog till it disappeared, and revealing a Magus who looked like a young boy.

“You...” He pointed at Leylin, preparing to say something in his anger.

But why would Leylin give him the chance to do that? Several blood-red snakes quickly wriggled into the boy's orifices, thus sealing his sea of

consciousness and ability to move.

Leylin was still disguising himself as Blood Rogue. All that the other Magi saw was someone in a crimson robe, emitting an evil aura as he appeared out of nowhere and quickly took care of the boy.

After plundering the merit points exchange centre, Leylin had returned to the nearby Reynold's office and, had been lying in wait there.

After waiting till Wade and the sneaky Thousand Faces came, Leylin had an idea and used Shadow Stealth. Like a python lying in wait for an ambush, he patiently waited for his prey to come knocking.

After seeing Thousand Faces killed, Shadow severely injured, and the Four Seasons Corps' attention diverted away, the little boy could no longer wait, and took a chance and acted.

Leylin had made use of the ecstasy and astonishment that the boy had felt while he was on the verge of succeeding, and struck out.

This method of using opportunities in battle could be said to be classic. If not for the A.I. Chip's help in simulations of the operation, Leylin would not have been able to take the boy down so easily.

"I didn't expect you to be hidden this well!" Leylin held on to the back of the little boy's collar, holding the frail and small body with his hand as if he were holding luggage.

As Leylin had sealed the little boy's mouth, he was still unable to speak, and could only glare harshly at Leylin, as if he were wishing that he could hack him to pieces.

This boy was evidently the member of the Thousand Meddling Hands that had threatened Leylin while he was on the way to the Four Seasons Garden.

At that time, he was not even a semi-converted Magus and had almost killed off Leylin, as well as causing him to lose a magic artifact.

But now... Leylin sized up the little boy. From the energy waves emitting from his body, in that short period of time, the boy had not only passed

through the bottleneck of being a semi-converted Magus but had advanced until he was just one step away from becoming a peak rank 1 Magus!

This rate of improvement was something that made even Leylin, who had the help of the A.I. Chip, gasp in awe.

“Blood Rogue! It’s Thousand Meddling Hands’ Blood Rogue! Why did he stop his own comrade?”

The leader of Four Seasons Corps was rinsing himself with milky-white holy water, finally washing all the disgusting green fluid away.

With confusion in his eyes, he approached and resolutely stood before Leylin, thus blocking his way.

Chapter 246: Falling Out

“It’s Blood Rogue from the Thousand Meddling Hands! The S ranked fugitive from Nightless City! Though I have no clue why you’re helping us, I still want to thank you!”

The leader of the Four Seasons Corps bowed, and then slashed his crimson longsword at Leylin.

“I’ve thanked you as I should have. Now, leave the prisoners in your possession behind! In return, I will let you go...”

Seeing the leader acting this righteous, Leylin was slightly confused. “Are you stupid? Do you think I’m so easily bullied?”

He guessed that this leader was rather egoistic, though it might have had to do with Leylin concealing his strength. Most people only knew that Blood Rogue was a semi-converted Magus, and were still unaware that he had advanced to a peak rank 1 Magus.

At times like this, incorrect information could cost lives!

“Well then, I apologise!” The leader spoke unenthusiastically, a huge wave of apparitions of sharp swords appearing from the longsword. Like a waterfall, they charged towards Leylin.

“Move! 2nd spell formation!” The leader shouted as he attacked.

With his yell, the Magi of the Four Seasons Corps seemed to have received some order, and other than the four Magi protecting Wade, the other members rushed him.

Tss tss! Thorny plants constantly grew from their crimson armour.

The vines that appeared from the armour seemed to have self-awareness, grouping together, and forming a green giant that was about five metres tall.

This green giant formed from plants was full of thorns, and sinister black lines filled its body. At the area where its eyes were meant to be, there were two strange purple flowers.

“Awooooo!” The green giant snarled, opening its large hand and grabbing towards Leylin.

“Is their ignorance to the truth causing them to be so fearless?”

Leylin glanced at the leader of the Four Seasons Corps with a pitying look. Next, a black ring emerged from under his feet, climbing up his robes and seemingly draping black armour on his body.

Cling clang! Cling clang!

Afterimages of red swords struck the black armour, sparks flying everywhere as they produced the immense sounds of a metal sword and armour crashing against each other.

The apparitions of the crimson sword kept falling apart, but the layer of black armour on Leylin’s body became increasingly thick, to the point that it began to produce multiple black tendrils.

“This is bad! That level of strength...” The leader’s eyes widened and he immediately thought to warn his subordinates, but it was much too late.

Whoosh! Before the green giant’s massive thorny palm had reached its destination, the surrounding air fluctuated and a powerful air stream was generated, blowing so hard that the furniture in the office was strewn apart.

“You don’t know when to stop!” While facing this green giant’s huge palm, Leylin raised his right hand clad in a black gauntlet, and gently gestured downwards.

From an outsider’s point of view, the situation right now was not the least bit balanced. Leylin was like a child in front of the giant, and yet he had raised his slender arm to meet the giant’s palm.

However, the green giant seemed to feel extremely threatened and kept roaring, the green rays of light in its hand constantly flickering as its speed increased by three times.

Bang!

Finally, Leylin’s little fist met with the giant’s fist that was the size of a

water jar, a wave of immense vibrations spreading out in all directions.

The surrounding air seemed to distort, and then all went back to normal.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

One after another, the thorns broke off of and fell from the large hand. This disintegration quickly reached the entire arm, and eventually the large body of the giant.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Thick plant roots and vines slid off the body of the giant, black cracks constantly extending until it was on the verge of tearing the body of the giant apart!

Bang! Finally, after a rumbling loud noise, the green giant's body was broken down into tiny pieces that flew in all directions.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The massive shockwave created extended miraculously to the bodies of the Four Seasons Corps' members that were surrounding Leylin.

The crimson armour on their bodies shook, and then broke apart.

The Magi completely paled and retreated a few steps, some of them coughing up large amounts of blood.

"Peak rank 1 Magus! You've already reached the peak of rank 1!"

The leader of the Four Seasons Corps stared fixedly at Leylin's mask, as if trying to carve his appearance into his memory.

In a situation where rank 2 Magi seldom appeared, peak rank 1 Magi were the most powerful beings in the south coast. The rise in the power of Blood Rogue was much too fast and too astonishing; this leader definitely could not let his guard down.

At this moment, fear was apparent in the leader's gaze.

"Sigh... Some things will be only resolved through violence!"

Leylin still maintained his pose where he held the little boy, and his other hand formed a mysterious hand seal and tapped against the ground.

“Shadow Domain!” A pitch-black shadow emerged from under his feet and quickly formed a dense, black sphere, crazily spreading to the surroundings.

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In that instant, black shadows engulfed the Magi who were in the office...

Shua shua! Within the darkness, there seemed to be the sounds of someone moving quickly, and the low, miserable human moans that one would make before they died.

Enshrouded by the shadows, where even light magic was useless, the Magi of the Four Seasons Corps were basically blind.

Thankfully, this was only sustained for a short period of time. Several minutes later, the dense darkness dispersed from the office, revealing the figures of a few Magi. As for Leylin, who they had encircled previously, he was now nowhere to be found.

“Leader! What should we do?”

A Magus struggled to stand and came to the leader of Four Seasons Corps.

However, he found a very strange expression on his leader’s face. There were hints of terror, as well as disbelief.

“Leader! Leader! What’s with you?” This Magus suddenly began to feel slightly afraid, extending his right hand, and thinking of shaking his leader’s arm.

Pak! Just as this Magus’ hand touched his leader’s clothes, his body turned into black ashes like a bubble that had been popped, dispersing everywhere.

Pak pak pak! As if triggering some chain reaction, some of the Magi around him also exploded, leaving behind black mist.

As the surviving Magi gazed at the mist, a suffocating sense of dread weighed down on their hearts.

.....

Shua! While still holding the little boy, Leylin's body transformed into a black hurricane that travelled around the headquarters, which had turned into a battlefield.

As he was moving at a very high speed, the Magi of both domains could only see a flickering black figure, which then completely disappeared.

Pak!

Upon finding an empty area that was far from the battlefield, he threw the little boy to the ground.

"Blood Rogue, what are you doing?" The little boy rolled a few times, body covered in soil and mud. However, he seemed to have regained his ability to speak and spoke coldly the moment he stood up.

"Stop with your nonsense and get Giant to come here!"

Leylin exclaimed.

"It's a very crucial time now, and even I can't contact him..." A strange expression appeared on his face as he explained.

Immediately after, however, he was kicked aside by Leylin.

Though Leylin had allowed the little boy to regain his ability to speak, he had evidently not unsealed his sea of consciousness. The little boy's frail body spun in mid-air several times, and then fell.

Crack! From the sounds of bones breaking produced from within his body, it seemed as if a few ribs had been broken.

Looking cool and collected, Leylin advanced, and like holding a duck, he grabbed the boy by the neck and lifted him up.

"I don't have much patience, so it's better if you don't try to test my limits. Don't think that I know nothing about the relationship between you and him!"

Though Leylin sounded calm, the boy who Leylin was glaring at felt empty inside. Under Leylin's relentless gaze, he felt as if the other man

could see through him and know all his secrets “No! How can that be...? I’ve always been very careful about it...” A myriad of thoughts flashed past the little boy’s mind, and he eventually gave in.

“Be quick about it!” Leylin loosened his grip, and the boy immediately fell to the ground.

“Cough cough...” The boy sat on the ground, two hands cradling his neck, on which purple marks were already apparent.

Without requesting Leylin to unseal his sea of consciousness, he quietly sat in a corner, as if in a daze.

Unexpectedly, Leylin actually waited for him.

It did not take long, and a few minutes later, green mist permeated the air and filled the area.

“What do you need me for? Don’t you know that our plan has entered a state of emergency, Leylin?!”

Giant’s voice was as hoarse as before, but this time, Leylin was able to hear fury in his voice... along with worry?

“Kill him! Quick, kill him!”

At this moment, the little boy who had been staring blankly to the side suddenly burst into hysterics. Green mist had been protecting him, thus allowing him to regain his power.

“Our entire plan fell through because of him! Also, he actually dared to treat me in this way! I want him dead!”

The boy glared at Leylin, his eyes full of venomous anger.

“I know.” Giant briefly nodded, looking at Leylin. “What do you have to say for yourself about your slip ups in the past, as well as the thwarting of our plan this time?”

As Giant spoke, the mist in the surroundings became increasingly stronger, to the point that bushes and soil began to emit white smoke, and melted like ice.

“What I have to say?”

Leylin smirked, and then snapped his fingers.

Pak! The little boy’s expression suddenly froze, and his brain exploded open like a watermelon.

“If you want an explanation, does this work?”

Leylin grinned widely.

Chapter 247: Flaming Serpent

Faced with the little boy's head exploding like a watermelon, the green mist distorted, revealing a heavily muscled figure that was more than 2 meters in height. For a moment, his head was visible, but he covered his head, his eyes bloodshot and glowing red.

"You actually..... You actually killed him....."

Giant roared, as if the little boy was very important to him. Seeing Leylin unceremoniously kill the little boy instead of letting him go, Giant was on the brink of going ballistic.

Tendrils of green mist rushed towards Leylin, looking like a swarm of moths and bees, and appeared to envelop Leylin like a huge cloud.

Chi Chi! Green meridians crawled over the muscles of Giant's body like small snakes. Then his body grew instantly, increasing in height by more than three meters. The hairs on his head stood straight up, facing the sky like small thorns.

"Why are you in such a hurry? Are you afraid?"

Leylin sneered, and immediately, black smoke billowed from his body, rising and dispersing into the air.

A trace of the black gas condensed to form numerous black snakes.

The bodies of those black snakes had fine black scales, and each had a pair of bean-sized eyes that exuded an unnatural, devilish red light. The snakes constantly hissed, and went to meet that green swarm of bees and moths.

Peng!

For a moment, the two big groups – the wisp of green gas and the den of black snakes – immediately mingled, and there were all kinds of sounds of biting, hissing, and other sounds all constantly emanating from within the green mist.

"Ah! I will kill you, I swear! I shall break all the bones in your body; I will

make you regret being born into this world!”

Giant howled as he crouched and jumped.

Boom! A huge pit immediately appeared on the ground, soil and rocks flying outwards like bullets, and creating sparks in the air.

With this momentum, Giant’s body was like a fiery arrow heading straight for Leylin.

“Kemoyin’s Scales!” A layer of fine black scales covered Leylin’s hands, from which spreaded rings of black light. The black colour from the scales turned even more vivid, and vaguely formed a design that was similar to a rune!

Following which, the muscles on Leylin’s arm bulged, and his strength of 20.1 was then displayed!

Boom!

Green and black figures fiercely slammed into each other, explosions continuously sounding out.

The two human figures flickered as they fought. Anything that the shockwaves from their battle brushed past, whether it was rocks or wood, would immediately explode into pieces.

Bang! Leylin’s left hand blocked Giant’s fist. As quick as lightning, his right hand turned into a claw, blood-red flames burning as it headed straight for Giant’s chest, where his heart was.

Currently, Giant’s two hands were rendered immobile by Leylin, and it was basically impossible to evade an attack that was so close.

Giant’s expression became resolute and he adjusted his position, avoiding that fatal claw at his chest! However, his right chest had been caught by Leylin’s Crimson Palm, and a huge chunk of flesh and blood flew out.

“Bone Piercing Technique!” Giant yelled, and his arms spread wide. Not dodging nor avoiding any attacks, he charged straight for Leylin.

Tss! Tss! Tss! Tss! Tss!

White bone spikes rapidly pierced through Giant's skin, growing out from inside his body.

Ka-cha! Leylin's right hand was the first to be struck by the bone spike.

There were some spiral designs on the bone spikes that, upon contact, drilled into whatever it hit.

The revolving spikes first broke through the crimson flames, and then struck the surface of Leylin's right arm, which was covered in Kemoyin's Scales.

The extremely piercing sound of metal scraping against metal sounded; it could also be said to sound like a woman's screams. Leylin's brows furrowed, and he quickly moved back.

"Haha! If you're only thinking of leaving now, it's much too late!"

Giant laughed heartily, ignoring the blood that was gushing all over his body, and spread his arms. His posture was like someone giving a bear hug, he brought his arms together and was ready to prick Leylin till he became like a porcupine.

"This distance... Shadow Stealth!"

A large amount of light appeared on the surface of Leylin's black, scaly armour. He then disappeared into thin air.

"You thought that I wouldn't have prepared against this?"

After losing track of Leylin, Giant looked around and suddenly shouted, and then breathed in deeply.

Two streams of white gas that even the naked eye could see entered Giant's nostrils like dragons, bulging his chest to a noticeable degree.

After this, Giant made a lengthy howl, "Awoooooo!"

The piercing sound travelled in all directions, and one could even see ripples in the air, with Giant at the epicentre.

An entire layer of the ground was peeled off by the soundwaves, and the green fog of moth and bees in the air, as well as Leylin's little black

snakes, exploded from the soundwaves, turning into vapour.

The fog was pushed further and further away by the soundwaves and eventually disappeared.

As Giant's voice increased to a higher pitch, the insects and moles in the area simply exploded in the air, forming a bloody mist.

Weng!

With some undulations in the air and a flash of black light, Leylin's body flickered from his camouflage.

"I found you, you damned worm!" Giant snarled, the spikes on his body growing more densely and constantly rotating. He was like a human killing machine, charging ahead blindly and turning all the trees and rocks that obstructed him into powder.

"Latent Fireball!" Leylin's gestured, and countless black fireballs converged into a giant jet black, flaming fireball.

With the added bonus from Leylin's elemental essence conversion, the latent fireball currently had a power of 57 degrees. It could even be said to be the maximum amount of power that a rank 1 Magus could produce!

The moment the black fireball appeared, the temperature of the surroundings rose, and the earth began to melt, with some of it evaporating into black smoke.

"Go!"

Leylin pointed at Giant, and the black fireball kept stretching until it formed a python that blazed with black flames.

The python's eyes were brimming with intelligence as it nimbly floated around, sometimes spitting out flames and blocking Giant's path.

Giant's eyes were fixed on the flaming serpent, the fear in his expression more apparent. Being able to manipulate such a powerful spell that required immense precision showed Leylin's immense talent in this area. His rate of improvement had far exceeded Giant's expectations.

"Hisssss!"

The flaming black serpent hissed while coiling around Giant's body.

Ka-cha! The black flames that brought blazing heat with them crashed into the white armour made of bone spikes!

Rumble! The raging flames constantly ascended, turning into a giant black inferno.

At the heart of the inferno, Giant's figure that was filled with bone spikes stood silently within, looking quite pale.

The air constantly distorted, shrinking inwardly and seemingly turning into a black hole. It kept sucking in all matter around, getting smaller and smaller.

Rumble!

Then, a huge black mushroom cloud gradually rose from the ground.

Immense energy waves constantly dispersed in all directions, to the point that even Magi from both factions who were battling at the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters could feel this power, which could destroy the heavens and the earth!

"Has the two great rank 2 Magi's fight brought them here?"

A young light Magus stopped what he was doing, "What do we do? Should we go take a look? Those are rank 2 Magi! I've never seen one fight before!"

Pak!

Immediately after, the back of his head was firmly struck. The youthful light Magus turned back and pitifully looked at a Magus with a white beard, "Teacher! Did I say anything wrong?"

The old light Magus' face was full of wrinkles, but his eyes sparkled with wisdom. He did not hesitate in the least and struck the young Magus' head again.

"Why are you still in a daze? Get out of here! Just the aftershocks from the rank 2 Magi's battle is enough to annihilate you without leaving a speck of dust behind!"

The old Magus was obviously very wise and had many life experiences. He knew that this high-level battle between Magi was a disaster for regular people and even low ranked Magi such as themselves!

“Hm? What?”

The young light Magus had yet to react.

“Look!” The old Magus yanked him by the hair and made him look in the direction of the battle.

At this moment, the young Magus suddenly discovered that the dark and light Magi who had been battling had all given up. as if they had reached a mutual understanding, and were moving in the opposite direction of the mushroom cloud.

“Do you see that now? Only a rookie like you would even think of watching a battle between rank 2 Magi.”

The old Magus pulled the young Magus along as he spoke, green hurricanes under his feet as he used invisible gusts to wind to send both of them far away.

.....

In the middle of the black mushroom cloud.

The previous explosion had left a large crater that was more than ten metres wide. At the heart of the pit was a seemingly bottomless hole that was sending out black luster, as if it was a direct pathway to the core of the earth.

Boom!

A white human figure surrounded by green mist fell to the ground, along with shards of bone that had shattered.

Pak! Giant struck the ground, carving out long troughs as his body ploughed through the floor.

He looked to be extremely pitiful, with more than half the bone spikes on his body gone and his right arm missing. There were serious injuries all over his body.

Xiu!

A black figure appeared in front of him, and what appeared next was a pair of phantom, blood-red flaming claws!

“Crimson Palm!” Leylin, on the other hand, was completely fine. He was also very satisfied with the strength of the latent fireball, which he had released with his full strength.

There was no expression on his face as he calmly dealt out the final blow to Giant!

Giant struggled and crawled a little, but the phantom crimson claws mercilessly caught hold of his two legs.

Ka-cha!

Giant’s legs snapped, and there were even crimson flames climbing towards his body from the legs.

Chapter 248: The Appearance of Rank 2 Magus

“Giant, when you first decided to exploit me to detonate the seal, did you ever imagine that things would turn out like this?”

Leylin slowly walked forward, a strange look in his eyes.

He calmly raised his blood-red right hand, preparing to send out another magical attack!

Xiu! At this very moment, a figure separated from Giant’s body, the energy waves from its body indicating that it was also a peak rank 1 Magus! It pounced towards Leylin at a very high speed.

“Eye of Hallucination!” After this command, an apparition of a vertical eye appeared behind this figure.

The apparition let out dusky light with various colours flashing past. Anyone who even chanced a glance at it would be dazzled and feel dizzy.

Two black magic artifacts in the form of daggers appeared in the figure’s hands, moving like a viper as they struck towards Leylin’s vital areas.

This attack was very sudden, and the assailant was a peak rank 1 Magus who specialised in sneak attacks. Even if it was a Magus like Marb, he would suffer greatly!

Strangely enough, there were no signs of shock on Leylin’s face. Instead what appeared was a grin as if he had expected it.

“You’ve finally appeared?”

Next, a cross-shaped, dark red pendant over his neck produced large amounts of dull red rays of light, and his body was covered with a layer of dense scales.

Leylin’s eyes had also turned into amber vertical pupils. Two rays of petrifying light were shot out of his eyes, piercing into the apparition of the vertical eye.

“Ahh!” Ashen gray rays of petrification ripped open the apparition, and a circle of petrification spread throughout the body of the black figure, causing him to yell miserably.

“Crimson Palm!” Leylin’s hands were covered with three layers of protection. The innermost layer was black – the Kemoyin’s Scales. The middle one was a dull red – an apparition from the Falling Star Pendant – and the outermost one was the protection from Crimson Palm’s flames.

The three layers produced different colours as they alternately sparkled on Leylin’s hands.

Leylin welcomed the two black daggers that were headed for him.

Boom! Boom!

Though the black daggers emitted the energy waves of middle-grade magic artifacts, they bounced away from Leylin.

Leylin’s Crimson Palm then unhesitatingly struck the chest of the black figure.

Rumble!

It was obvious that the black figure’s chest had caved in, and it was coupled with the ear-piercing sound of bones breaking.

Boom! The figure was flung to the ground, revealing a Magus that Leylin was very familiar with.

“Team leader Caesar, what are you doing here? And can you also explain why you chose to appear in such a strange way?”

Leylin came before Caesar and enquired.

From his tone, it was obvious that Leylin was not surprised at Caesar’s appearance here.

“Cough cough...” The dark figure who had launched a sneak attack was, as expected, Caesar.

However, he looked to be in a bad state, constantly coughing out blood, and his face ashen. Around his third vertical eye on his forehead, there

was a ring of gray stone. This was the effect of the Eye of Petrification, and it was still spreading.

“You..... When did you find out?” Caesar did not reply to Leylin’s question, and instead, countered with another question.

“From the very beginning! In all honesty, I really admire you for daring to train in “Three Spirits In A Body”, which is an extremely dangerous ancient secret technique. You actually succeeded and forcefully separated your spirit into three portions!”

Admiration was apparent in Leylin’s expression.

He had previously used the A.I. Chip to simulate Caesar’s trump card, and then heavily researched about ancient secret techniques like these.

Even in ancient times, these kinds of techniques were considered to be very dangerous. Only lunatics would choose to train in them, as they forcefully separated a Magus’ soul into three parts, each having their own will, and having the ability to be spread apart or merged together in crucial moments.

In other words, a person would be separated into three individuals. As long as a single body remained alive, the other 2 bodies could be resurrected given enough resources.

This was basically a secret technique that defied the heavens.

The situation was now very obvious.

Caesar, Giant, and the little boy were the different bodies of a single Magus who practised “Three Spirits In A Body,” and Caesar was a spy who was buried the deepest in Four Seasons Garden, and the instigator of this entire thing!

Leylin had found it strange that the Thousand Meddling Hands knew so much about the Four Seasons Garden, were able to come up with a spell design to destroy the seal linked to the core body of consciousness, and possessed a map of the locations of the defense squads.

From the looks of it, with Caesar, the leader of the hunting team, as a

spy, everything made sense.

Caesar forced a laugh, "It's far from a success. Originally, if the boy had been able to become a peak rank 1 Magus as well, I would have been able to merge all three bodies and try to advance to become a rank 2 Magus! It's a pity, though..."

While speaking, a ring of stone-like skin had spread from the sides of Caesar's third eye, almost reaching his nose.

"Why did you lure us here?"

Caesar asked while lying on the ground, without activating any defence formation. He was now aware that he would not be able to withstand even a blow from Leylin and was not going to humiliate himself by trying to protect himself.

"You're smart! I want to make a trade with you. I hope that..."

"No! Don't listen to him! Kill him! I want to kill him!" Giant, who was seriously injured, began to yell.

Leylin sighed as he held his head, "Looks like I have to take care of all the troublesome matters first!"

He could clearly tell that out of all the three bodies that Caesar had, only Caesar himself was relatively sane. Giant and the little boy obviously had a few screws loose, which might have been a side effect of the technique.

The little boy's craziness was possibly even a level above Giant. After his death, his maniacal tendencies were transferred to Giant.

Out of everyone present, Caesar was probably the only one willing to listen to his proposition. Giant was just an obstruction!

At this thought, Leylin's eyes were filled with a murderous aura; he was prepared to act right away!

Even if Giant and the little boy died, Caesar would still be able to revive them given a lot of resources, and as long as he was still around. It would just take a little more time.

Caesar and Giant were currently heavily injured, and it was impossible

for them to fight back.

“Young man, can you stop now?”

Just as Leylin was about to move forward and deal the final blow to Giant, an aged voice sounded by his ear.

A silver ring of spiritual force descended upon the battlefield.

This spiritual force was incredibly malicious and strong, to the point that the air was distorting. Silver spiritual force formed a large hand, which picked up Giant.

The silver hand formed out of spiritual force was extremely sturdy. The flames from Leylin's Crimson Palm were still burning fiercely, but there seemed to be no effect on the hand.

Grains of solidified spiritual force constantly fluttered around, slowly extinguishing the crimson flames on Giant's legs.

“Spiritual force solidification!”

As he watched the silver, solidified spiritual force, Leylin suddenly thought back to the Gargamel that he had seen previously.

That being formed out of evilness also had the strength of a rank 2 Magus, and at that point in time, Leylin was basically helpless against it.

“A rank 2 Magus from the Thousand Meddling Hands?”

Leylin halted his footsteps.

The silver hand sent the heavily wounded Giant before a Magus donned in black robes.

This Magus was tall and slender but was surrounded by a terrifying spiritual force that even Leylin was fearful of. His eyes were a sparkling green, and anyone who saw him would feel immense fear from the evilness they gave off.

“Father! Father! After killing my ‘little boy’ spirit, he actually tried to kill me, the only member of your bloodline! He must pay the price in blood!”

Giant curled up beside the dark Magus, beginning to wail like a little

child.

Caesar, on the other side, called out 'Father', his face ashen.

"So this dark Magus is actually Caesar's father!" Leylin realised. However, something that the rank 2 dark Magus threw over made him feel anxious.

It was the head of a Magus. Its skin was pale, and its face was full of wrinkles. Leylin was extremely familiar with this face, as he had actually seen it not long ago.

"Reynold! You actually killed him!" Leylin's eyes widened.

This rank 2 Magus was even more powerful than Leylin had expected, to actually be able to behead Reynold, who was also a rank 2 Magus!

Pak! at this moment, the petrification on Caesar's face had extended to his neck, and his expression was still as if he had become a statue.

Rumble!

A streak of green flames began to burn, and the dark Magus traversed through space and arrived in front of Caesar.

"Ancient Petrification Technique?" His voice was hoarse, like two metal pieces scraping against each other.

"Don't worry, my child!" The dark Magus extended a pair of thin arms, which had green spores on them, and caressed Caesar's stone head.

Bzzz! Milky white light descended onto Caesar's head.

Within the light, greyish white stone skin fell off bit by bit, revealing Caesar's original skin tone.

"Thank you, father! Also, he..." Caesar began to whisper in the dark Magus' ear, and the Magus constantly nodded.

Upon seeing this scene, Giant, who was not far away, glared furiously like a child who had his sweets stolen. There was even some jealousy as he stared hard at Caesar.

"Aren't you all the same person? Are you jealous of yourself?"

Leylin was speechless.

At this point, Caesar was done speaking. The rank 2 Magus turned his gaze to Leylin.

A powerful burst of spiritual force was fixed upon Leylin, to the point that he felt as if he was standing stark naked in a field of snow.

Chapter 249: Concede

“Your name is Leylin, and Blood Rogue is your alias, yes? Very good! You actually dared to thwart my plan!”

The dark Magus laughed coldly, and suddenly made his move!

Silver solidified spiritual force controlled the energy particles in the air, turning into a large, colourful tide that was several times larger what Leylin was able to produce. It rushed towards Leylin like a tempest, covering the heavens and the earth.

“So strong! Whether it’s to catalyse or cast a spell using solidified spiritual force, the effects are far greater than that of us rank 1 Magi with our invisible spiritual force!”

Leylin’s expression was grim as his pupils turned amber.

Behind him, large amounts of dark energy particles converged, turning into the terrifying form of a large, black python.

The python was ten metres long, its eyes were the same amber colour as Leylin’s, and the scales on its body emitted rings of black rays while it kept hissing.

Rumble! The python slammed into the tide of elemental particles like a huge ocean wave crashing against a reef, producing a monstrous sound like that of said ocean waves.

In the midst of the colourful rays of light, the apparition of the black python and the elemental wave were extinguished. Immense pillars of wind rose towards the heavens and then rushed down low, before forming immense gales that swept across the surrounding area.

Leylin quickly retreated four or five steps, his face pale, and two streams of blood dripping from his nostrils.

“Hoho, you’re not half bad! Out of all the rank 1 Magi that I’ve seen, you’re probably the strongest. You’re currently bordering a rank 2 Magus!”

The dark Magus was unmoving, the only sound being the wind rustling his clothes.

“But it’s a pity! A rank 1 Magus is still only rank 1, and there still remains a huge gap between us! The feeling of personally killing a genius is really making me feel intoxicated...”

The dark Magus mumbled to himself, the dark green light in his eyes suddenly intensifying to the point that it started to solidify into two beams of light.

“Anguished Howl of – Cough cough...”

Just as the dark Magus was about to attack, the light from his body began to flicker, and he started to violently cough.

Rings of green light flashed as things that looked like plants began to emerge from his body. The green spores on his hands began to sprout, and green plant tendrils grew and spreaded across his body.

“So, killing a rank 2 Magus like Reynold was not without a price.”

While observing this scene, Leylin came to a conclusion. The dark Magus must have suffered some serious injuries in killing a rank 2 Magus like Reynold.

This was advantageous to him for the next part of his plan.

At this moment, the platinum gate to the secret plane suddenly rumbled. The energy waves produced were very distinct, to the point that Leylin could feel them from his current location.

Afterwards, an unknown existence that must have been at least a rank 2 Magus passed through the gate of the secret plane and approached them.

“You darn dark bastards! Receive the judgement of lightning!”

This voice was full of anger, seemingly full of raging flames.

Hualala!

Countless blue bolts of lightning that were like crazed serpents scattered

all over the sky and fell like raindrops.

Ka-cha! An electric current that was as wide as a bucket struck a dark Magus who did not have the opportunity to dodge.

This dark Magus immediately turned into ashes in the midst of the lightning, his body crumbling away.

Boom! Boom! Boom! The platinum entrance to the secret plane spat out light. Every time it flashed, groups of light Magi descended into the area.

These light Magi were dressed in uniform, and the metallic smell of blood was apparent on their bodies.

Compared to the dark Magi, who were already experts in battles, the division of work between the light Magi was even more efficient. The Magi who were specialised in battles were extremely experienced in bloody battles. Some even had a strength that rivalled the dark Magi!

With the help of these light Magi, the tide was turned. Rather than the Four Seasons Garden, the dark Magi of Thousand Meddling Hands lost their advantage.

“They’re here! The reinforcements from the light Magi Alliance!” Leylin mumbled.

He quickly glanced at the dark Magi, who were being suppressed by the bolts of lightning.

“Look, my lord! The reinforcements of the light Magi have arrived. Are you still confident in destroying the gate to the secret plane?”

Leylin gave a slight smile as he asked.

“No, but I think this little bit of time I have left is enough for me to kill you before I retreat!” The dark Magus was silent for a moment, and then sneered.

“Is that so?” The rune of the suction spell formation on Leylin’s back lit up, and a brownish-yellow spell formation emerged in front of his chest.

In that moment, a brownish-yellow light covered the earth, and the gravity around the area intensified by a factor of almost thirty.

“The ancient suction spell formation and the gravitational spell formation? You’re actually using both of them here?”

There was a subtle hint of fear in the dark Magus’ voice.

With the added bonus of these two spells, even if he were in his best condition, he did not have the confidence that he would be able to take down Leylin. Presently, his strength was depleted and his opponent would definitely be able to escape.

“I’m actually still on the dark Magi’s side. After all, a leopard can’t change its spots!”

Leylin spoke hurriedly and quickly, “Rather than completely destroying the gate to the secret plane, I believe that gaining possession of it will be of even more value.”

His voice had a bewitching quality to it.

“What does that mean?” The dark Magus asked coldly but stopped his attack.

“Currently, Reynold’s already dead, the team leaders of all the main divisions are dead, and Caesar and I may very well be the Magi with the most authority here! The reinforcements from the light Magi will have to leave eventually. Once that happens, and before a new member is assigned here from headquarters, we’ll be the people with the highest authority, and will consequently be in charge.”

Leylin was expressionless. “Once that happens, we’ll continue to cooperate with you in secret, and give you access to the spell formations and defence formations here. Wouldn’t that make everything easier?”

The dark Magus considered for a while, and then solemnly pondered over this question. It must be noted that this was a very attractive proposal, and was very much viable. After Leylin said this, he could even feel the dark Magus tremble a little.

“We can assassinate him or make him a scapegoat. Anyways, all we need is some time. By the time headquarters finds out what had happened, we’d be long gone...” Leylin answered swiftly.

“What do you think?”

The dark Magus glanced at Caesar, who was already standing.

Caesar was silent. “I think it’s possible. Considering that our original plan has already failed, the situation can’t possibly get any worse than this!”

There was actually something else that both Leylin and the dark Magus had not pointed out.

When that happened, even if the rank 2 dark Magus would be able to escape, his sons, Caesar and Giant, would definitely die here!

Leylin was, of course, not so daring as to blackmail them so blatantly, but his hidden threat had been understood.

“I don’t trust you! Unless you let me give you a branding of your consciousness...” The dark Magus slowly spoke.

“Impossible!”

Leylin resolutely refused. Though receiving a branding of consciousness was slightly better than receiving a branding of the spirit, who knew what a rank 2 Magus could do? He didn’t want to be in a situation where he was unknowingly being controlled.

Leylin had a rascally attitude.

In front of real power, only a person with a strength that others would be jealous of could have the guts to say this.

Though Leylin was not yet on equal grounds with a rank 2 Magi, he was confident that he could survive and escape, resulting in his more brazen attitude.

“A contract with the Trial’s Eye. That’s the furthest I can go.”

The dark Magus pondered silently, and then responded in a low voice.

“...Fine!” Leylin hesitated for a moment and then agreed.

“As compensation for helping you, I’ll need a large amount of resources and magic crystals, as well as some high-grade knowledge. After this, you

also have to guarantee that I'll be able to enter Lighthouse of the Night. All of these things have to be written into the contract..."

The Magi acted quickly, and minutes later, the dark Magus left with Giant.

Leylin glanced at Caesar, who was standing strangely, with a smile appearing on his face, "Team Leader Caesar! Do you need me to help you back?"

After signing another agreement that could be said to be very harsh with the Trial's Eye, Leylin and Caesar were now allies once more.

In the eyes of the light Magi, the sight of two Magi who were always at odds with each other suddenly becoming friendly was quite strange. However, for the dark Magi, this was just an everyday occurrence. In the dark Magi faction, all sorts of battles happened everyday. Betraying one's alliance for the prospects of more benefits was very common.

"Then I'll leave it to you!" Caesar glanced at Leylin and actually let him assist him back.

Doing something like exposing one's vulnerabilities was unthinkable to the dark Magi, but Leylin could understand what he was thinking.

Previously, Leylin and the rank 2 Magus from the Thousand Meddling Hands had agreed and signed another contract.

Through the Caesar's scrutiny of the contract, the conditions were very harsh. In order to prevent Leylin from making use of any loopholes, Caesar had practically gone through the contract word by word.

He had basically made it impossible for Leylin to do whatever he wanted, not even giving him the chance to go back on his words.

As he had to deal with a rank 2 Magus and the dark Magi alliance, Leylin could only be placed at a slight disadvantage.

In other words, the moment Leylin expressed bad intentions towards Caesar, the power of the contract would devour him before he could even use his magic.

Hence, Caesar was quite trusting of Leylin now.

“We need to work quickly for our objectives regarding Wade!”

Caesar’s lips moved slightly, his low voice travelling into Leylin’s ear.

As the one in charge of the hunting team, which actually had true authority, Caesar had a very high position in the Four Seasons Garden. He was second only to Reynold, and only a handful of people could match his authority.

What was even more coincidental was that a few peak rank 1 Magi had died on the battlefield for a variety of reasons. Some had even been personally killed by Leylin!

As long as Wade was disposed of, Caesar would immediately be in control of everything!

Chapter 250: Lightning Corp

Leylin reflected briefly.

Currently, in the entire Eternal River Plains' secret plane, the Four Seasons Garden had received a fatal blow.

Other than Reynold, a great elder, the combat and defense team leaders had all died in battle. The person in charge of the merit points exchange centre had been killed by Leylin, and it was unknown whether Wade, the envoy from the headquarters, was dead or alive.

Leylin was stunned at the discovery that in the headquarters of Four Seasons Garden in the secret plane, there might only be two peak rank 1 Magi here – Caesar and himself.

Under these circumstances, it would be an easy task to exploit his authority in the headquarters.

Though the headquarters in the external world was sure to react quickly, dispatching large numbers of Magi and even rank 2 Magi here to investigate, that would take time!

Caesar and Leylin could use this time to further diminish the power of the Four Seasons Garden and create opportunities for the dark Magi.

By the time the light Magi found out, the battle array of the defence would have been controlled thoroughly by dark Magi, and the situation would be set.

Even if there were to be another large war, with the dark Magi in charge of four entrances and three under the light Magi's control, the dark Magi would have an advantage.

Leylin had thrown out such tempting bait, which was how he had gotten the dark Magus to bite!

"It's Lord Caesar! And Patrolling Inspector Leylin!"

As they approached the headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden, the figures of Leylin and Caesar were quickly noticed by the large remaining

numbers of the light Magi. The surviving members quickly came forward to greet them.

Leylin ran his eyes over everyone. These Magi's robes were in tatters, and there were traces of dust and blood on their faces. To all these Magi who had seen Caesar and Leylin, it was as if they had seen the pillars of their organisations.

"It seems like the loss of the higher levels in Four Seasons Garden is worse than I thought!"

Leylin admitted to himself that in the time he had been a patrolling inspector, he'd done nothing good, instead extorting much from every department. However, after these Magi saw Leylin, they gathered and greeted him, their enthusiasm surprising him to no end.

Unfortunately, there were no longer any peak rank 1 Magus in the Four Seasons Garden. That meant that Caesar and Leylin were the only two peak rank 1 Magi on the light Magi's side, which was why they were welcomed with such enthusiasm and ardent hope.

"If they found out that Caesar and I were the instigators of this recent attack, who knows what expression they would be wearing..."

Leylin was slightly dumbfounded, but he still put on a solemn expression.

"May I know who currently has the highest authority in the Four Seasons Garden?"

At this moment, a Magus with lightning designs on his silver-white robes separated the Magi and approached them.

"I'm Caesar, the team leader of the hunting team. This person here is Magus Leylin, the newly appointed patrolling inspector."

Caesar's face was pale as he spoke.

"We are the Lightning Corps of the light Magi alliance. The leader of our corps would like to meet you."

The Magus' expression was blank, as if he was incapable of expressing

emotion. Not caring about Caesar's serious injuries, he forged ahead and led the way.

The surrounding Magi of the Four Seasons Garden cowered and did not dare to move forward.

Compared to something as large as the light Magi alliance, the Four Seasons Garden was just one of many allies. Also, every single member of the Lightning Corps was at least a semi-converted Magus, which would make them equivalent to the elites of the Four Seasons Corps. Their numbers were greater, and the leader was coincidentally a rank 2 Magus, which was something they could not contend against.

Leylin shrugged his shoulders, met Caesar's gaze, and walked on.

They were naturally familiar with the headquarters here. After walking through an area with destroyed walls, Leylin and Caesar met the leader of the Lightning Corps in a temporary guest hall.

"Are you Caesar? 19 years ago, we met at Reynold's wine reception!"

Unexpectedly, this Magus knew Caesar.

Caesar quickly bowed in greeting, "So it's Lord Desmond!"

Leylin ducked his head and bowed slightly, chancing a glance at this rank 2 Magus.

Desmund had a blue robe draped over his sturdy body, which proudly displayed his chest and bulging muscles. Under his blonde fringe, there was a blue lightning mark on the forehead.

What garnered the majority of Leylin's attention was Desmond's eyes. Every time they blinked, slight electric currents flickered; it was rather astonishing.

"Where did you go?" The rank 2 Magus asked right away.

"My lord! I was previously leading the hunting team in a battle with the dark Magi, which resulted in many casualties. In the end, even I sustained injuries, and it was thanks to Magus Leylin rushing over that I managed to survive..."

Caesar began to narrate a story that he had previously made up.

The gist of it was that he had been defeated in battle, but had been saved by Leylin in the nick of time.

This was a version that he had previously discussed with Leylin, and they had recorded all of the casualties as well.

Of course, Caesar was the sole culprit for the annihilation of his own team members, and the two of them had also shifted a few dark Magus corpses from elsewhere to create the illusion of a battle.

With a rank 2 Magus helping to conceal this matter, it was a large possibility that they would not be found out.

What made Leylin feel relieved the most was that Desmond merely had asked in passing; he nodded, and did not continue with more questions.

Though they were all part of the light Magi alliance, Desmond was an outsider, after all. These were things that required the Four Seasons Garden to dispatch their investigation team and investigate everything properly.

“Hm! You two peak rank 1 Magi, and also Wade, would be the Four Seasons Garden’s final force.”

Desmond looked solemn.

Teng teng!

Caesar fell back a few steps, his face full of disbelief, “The last force? Does that mean... Lord Reynold...”

Seeing Caesar’s Oscar-worthy acting skills, Leylin was speechless. Although Leylin had appeared to be shocked, his expression was formed with the manipulation of his facial muscles by the A.I. Chip.

If not, with his current acting skills, he would have definitely been seen through by Desmond, a sly old fox. No matter how boorish he looked, he was still a rank 2 Magus, and he would not lose to anyone in terms of intelligence or observational skills.

In comparison, Caesar’s performance was remarkable.

“No! I don’t believe it! Lord Reynold is a rank 2 Magus, and...” Caesar’s eyes glazed over as he kept muttering.

“Though I also find it hard to believe, this is the truth. Reynold has fallen... I felt the extinguishment of his life force. Unfortunately, I arrived too late, else I would have definitely been able to save him. I’m sorry...” Desmond touched his chest, his expression showing regret.

“As Reynold’s good friend, I will inherit his dying wish and carry out revenge on the dark Magi!” This corps leader guaranteed.

“Thank you, esteemed lord!” Caesar’s face showed his resolution. “After I’m healed, I will immediately apply for missions to take revenge!”

“Hn!”

Desmund nodded, and then clapped his hands.

Rumble! The floorboards at two ends of the temporary room split open, and a large, translucent, metallic pillar rose from the middle of the room.

The sounds of turning gears sounded from the heart of the pillar. Streams of glowing runes constantly travelled upwards, creating a magical sight.

“This is the core control of the Four Seasons Garden’s defensive formation! There had been a powerful interference, and the procedural spell design also had some issues. Don’t worry about that though, as I’ve already fixed it. Based on the rules stated in the alliance’s proposed laws, I now announce, in my capacity as the leader of the Lightning Corps, the formation of the Four Seasons Garden’s Crisis Team, which will be in charge of the defensive and spell formations. The members will consist of Caesar, Leylin, and Wade. If you have differences in opinions, you should decide based on the majority’s decision.”

Desmund spoke as if he were reciting, and circles of light that represented a contract and celebration twinkled around the three of them.

“Now then, complete the ceremony for the formation genie to recognise its master!”

Desmund pointed at the metallic pillar in the center of the room. "Press your palm on it. The formation genie will automatically record the aura of your spirit and give you authority."

Caesar nodded, and then placed his palm on the surface of the metal pillar, closing his eyes and seemingly communicating with a body of consciousness.

Moments later, while beaming with admiration, he withdrew his hand.

"Your turn!" Leylin nodded and also placed his hand on the pillar.

The surface of the metallic pillar was very glossy, and there was a strange feeling when he touched it. It was very soft, as if it were not metal, but rather cotton.

It was also different from the iciness of metal. The surface of this pillar gave Leylin a rather warm feeling.

"Recording spiritual aura! Conferring an authority of seven stars!"

A robotic female voice sounded in Leylin's mind. It was different from the A.I. Chip's genderless voice, and was instead a crisp feminine voice.

"Is this a formation genie?"

Leylin was a little rueful. Whether science or magic, when it came down to it, there were basically different means to achieve the same end.

However, this formation genie obviously did not have any intelligence, and could only robotically answer Leylin's queries.

Communication with this conscious was quick, and in a quick ten seconds, Leylin was able to largely grasp what his authority extended to, and the function of the formation genie.

This formation genie was the core of all the defensive spell formations that the Four Seasons Garden had set up. Through the formation genie, one could easily check any single region.

However, this spell formation had previously been heavily interfered with by the dark Magi, which resulted in the unexpectedness of the attack this time.

As for the limits of his authority, this referred to how much manpower he could command. The chain of command consisted of a total of nine stars, with one having the least authority, and nine commanding the most. Leylin currently had a ranking of seven stars, and was therefore capable of dispatching most of the defensive forces in the Four Seasons Garden to besiege anybody, as well as having access to all available information, save a few top secret documents.

In the past, Reynold had had nine stars, and was capable of ordering the formation genie to self-destruct!

Leylin, Wade and Caesar were merely granted seven stars temporarily to deal with this emergency.

Chapter 251: Bribery

“Where’s Wade? Why don’t I see him right now?”

Caesar asked carelessly after Leylin had also completed the ceremony, and the metal pillar had automatically retracted into the ground.

“He sustained serious injuries and was also cursed by a very troublesome spell.”

Hearing this, Desmond’s expression darkened.

“It was caused by a dagger soaked in the poison of the Abyssal Spider. I’ve never seen such a cruel match-up... Though he’s already awoken, the poison and curse will eat his flesh and spirit, consuming all the nutrients in his body and turning him into a dried-up corpse.”

“In this situation, I suggest that he return to the Four Seasons Garden headquarters as soon as possible. The high-energy purification pool is there, and the elders may be able to find a solution, but unfortunately...”

Desmund spread his arms.

“After receiving news of his teacher’s death, Wade has been insisting that he stay behind and return only after the investigations end.”

This was troublesome.

It would be the best situation for them if Wade had died or returned to the academy after having sustained injuries. For them right now, what had been a two-man team had now been joined by another, who would be an impediment to them.

“Find an opportunity and kill him!”

In Caesar’s eyes, Leylin could see a glint of vehemence.

After that, Desmond, Caesar, and Leylin chatted for a while about the Lightning Corps being stationed here, and other matters concerning living arrangements.

Leylin had never concerned himself with these matters before, so he just shut his mouth and watched Caesar and Desmond speak.

After everything was over, Caesar gave the excuse of treating his injuries and brought Leylin into his room.

Pu!

A curtain that seemed like a spider web rose in the room, the light covering all blind spots.

“Alright! This is an early warning system that I designed myself. With it around, I’ll be able to know even if a rank 2 Magus were to eavesdrop on our conversation.” Caesar carelessly picked a chair and sat down.

“Using the silk of the Eight-Clawed Spider, which is extremely sensitive to spiritual force... What an interesting way of thinking.”

Leylin surveyed this curtain, eyes flashing with understanding as he sat beside Caesar.

“You’re very learned! This type of material is very rare, and only a few people in Nightless City’s scholarly institutions are able to recognise this. You should be able to go and pass the exam to become a professor there...”

Caesar sighed in admiration. It astounded him to no end that this spell formation, which had been developed for him by his father, had easily been recognised by Leylin.

“You don’t seem to be that worried about Desmond. He’s made his stance clear that before the reinforcements and investigation team from the Four Seasons Garden arrive, he will keep watch here. Rank 2 Magi have a lot of tricks; aren’t you afraid that he’ll discover something?”

Leylin showed no politeness as he asked this team leader, who had once been his superior.

His relationship with Caesar was quite unique. He could now tell that the person who let out the word of his identity within the Thousand Meddling Hands and transferred him here from Nightless City was definitely Caesar! His goal was probably to obtain another helper in the inner circle of the Four Seasons Garden, or perhaps just cannon fodder.

Hence, after seeing through this scheme, Leylin unhesitatingly chose to betray them and injured Caesar to the point that he was near death.

However, with the knowledge that he was backed by a rank 2 Magus, Leylin did not dare to go too far. After all, offending a rank 2 Magus was not a very sensible decision.

“Don’t worry about Desmond.”

Caesar waved his arms. “Rank 2 Magi all shoulder different responsibilities. When they oversee a place, they are usually unable to leave. I’m familiar with the place Desmond has been guarding; it’s the Lightning Region at entrance No. 2 to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. As long as the dark Magi apply pressure to him from there, Desmond will eventually be transferred back there! After all, that was the region that his academy is in charge of. Let’s be real here, even if we fall to the enemy, their academy won’t really be affected at all, but if entrance No. 2 is taken over, their academy will receive a large blow...”

Caesar analysed it very logically, displaying his exceptional situational skills and ability to think of the big picture.

“In order to attack entrance No. 2 and put pressure on them, at the very least, a rank 2 dark Magus has to attack. If only we had someone backing us...” Leylin was speechless. Even he was able to come up with such a plan, but he lacked Caesar’s background and backing, as to where dark Magi could be dispatched according to his orders.

“I’ll take care of everything regarding Desmond. Just focus on one person!”

Caesar turned to gaze at Leylin, his third vertical eye on his forehead blinking.

“Wade?” Leylin touched his chin.

Wade was the first Magus from the Four Seasons Garden that he had met. At the beginning, he had even passed the examination with his help.

“That’s right! Desmond is an outsider, after all, and there are many things that he can’t do. However, Wade is different. He’s an envoy from

the headquarters, so he holds a lot of power, and he is also the student of Reynold. He can easily take over the connections and resources that Reynold had, and is a huge obstruction to our plan!"

Caesar's tone was extremely serious and was practically one of fear.

"You don't want this plan to ultimately fail either, do you? You've signed the agreement, and the moment things fail, your spirit will self-destruct and leave nothing behind."

Caesar's eyes seemed to give out dark rays that shot towards Leylin.

"Don't worry! I'll silence him!"

Leylin was silent for a while and then spoke.

"Alright! I've contacted the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters in the external world. The elders are in a frenzy, and the entirety of the Four Seasons Corps will be dispatched here, along with a rank 2 Magus!"

Caesar also gave more news, "Five days! We have, at most, five more days!"

What he and Leylin needed to do within this time period was to push out Desmond and Wade, and hand over the defensive spell formation and core of the secret plane to the dark Magi.

As long as all of that was done, all entrances to the secret plane would belong to the dark Magi.

"Five days is enough!" Leylin stood up and left. As he walked out the door, he turned back and smiled at Caesar. "Also, remember! I don't like the look in that middle eye of yours. It's disgusting!"

Pak! The door slammed shut, and the expression on Caesar's face darkened.

"Despicable!" With a swipe of his arm, the cup, documents, and other items on the table fell to the ground, producing the crisp sound of objects colliding.

"If not for my "Three Spirits in a Body" still being incomplete, and me needing him to help me in my plan... I'll kill him! I swear on it!"

Caesar's facial muscles contorted.

For him to be defeated by Leylin, who he had looked down upon in the past, was an absolute humiliation. Also, as he was not better than Leylin, and even had to concede in some matters; it was like reopening old wounds and exposing them to the scorching sun.

What made him more furious was that Leylin had actually killed the little boy, and had inflicted heavy injuries on Giant!

These two Magi were the other spirits that were part of the trio from his body. Though they had different personalities, it could be said that out of the three people, including himself, one had been killed and the other two had been seriously injured! This hatred was definitely not something that a contract could restrict.

Caesar had concealed it well, but Leylin could see through it.

"It's a pity... So what if he knows? I admit that you're a genius and even the kind that's one in a million! But so what? You're now bound by the contract and don't have much time to grow any further...Once the plan succeeds and you lose all your value, I'll retrieve your spirit and torture you for two hundred years! I swear on it!"

Caesar lowered his head and began to laugh, like the murmurings of a patient who was nearing death.

Caesar moved extremely quickly, and on just the next day, Leylin heard news of increased dark Magus activity at entrance No. 2 to the secret plane. For the sake of security, Desmond had led the Lightning Corps to guard the area again.

Though there were many intelligent Magi who could tell this was a ploy to lure him away, Desmond still left.

For Desmond's and his superiors, if the Four Seasons Garden was able to eventually maintain the possession of their entrance, not only would the Four Seasons Garden benefit, and they themselves would be able to obtain ten to twenty percent of the resources.

But entrance No. 2 was different! There were resources there that they

were in charge of, and as long as they took care of the entrance, profits would come in like a wave!

Hence, even if there was just a slight possibility, Desmond did not want to risk anything.

As for his good friend, Reynold? Too bad! Magi were a bunch of practical people, and a dead friendship was a friendship no more. Without a similar strength and position, this friendship could not continue.

After considering both sides of the situation, Desmond made the decision to return.

After all, most Magi were selfish people! When it came to their own benefits, even rank 2 Magi could not resist temptation!

“However, Desmond still had to put on a superficial front and pacify the Four Seasons Garden members.”

Leylin strolled around, and the Magi who walked past respectfully bowed to him.

Whether it was in terms of power or authority, Leylin was one of the core existences in the headquarters within the secret plane. The rest of the Magi in Four Seasons Garden could only duck their heads.

What was more interesting was that most of the team leaders of those divisions that Leylin had extorted had died in battle. Furthermore, the remaining members of those teams bribed Leylin by sending over even more resources and ingredients as they wanted to shirk their responsibilities.

In the past, Leylin had needed to do the work himself, but now, bribes would appear on his doorstep on their own, and they were only afraid that he would not accept it. This treatment was vastly different from before.

In this situation, Leylin, of course, accepted all these and promised them blindly to everything they requested.

After all, the amount of time he would stay here could be counted in days. Once he was to leave, these Magi would only be left in shock.

Chapter 252: Unrestrained

“When the time comes, these Magi who bribed me before will, unfortunately, be apprehended and accused of helping the enemy... I wonder what expression will be on their faces when that happens?”

Leylin thought to himself as a sly grin appeared on his face.

His feet did not stop moving until he came to a building that was still being rebuilt.

This had once been the merit points exchange centre, and after having experienced the attack from the dark Magi, which Leylin had been the leader of, it was now destroyed to a terrible extent.

Most of the main structure had been destroyed and, what was even more serious, the huge loss of a few resource-based warehouses!

Besides the main warehouse, the greedy Magi also went after a few small-scale branch warehouses. There were some slightly valuable magic crystals, and if they had not already been stolen by the dark Magi, then they had self-destructed under the protection of their spell formations.

In the end, the dark Magi who had grown green with envy had even burnt up the whole area and torched everything!

On the bare surface of the stones in the surroundings, one could also see the burn marks here.

“Lord Leylin!” A light Magus who appeared to be the person in charge here quickly came over and greeted him.

“Hn!” Leylin nodded. He had never bothered remembering this light Magus’ name, and could only vaguely remember that he was the person in charge.

“How’s the progress of the rebuilding?” he asked.

Though it seemed as if Leylin had posed the question on a whim, sweat beaded on the forehead of the light Magus who was waiting by the side.

“Over 80% of our main infrastructure has been lost. This is not a large

problem with earth elemental magic, but the key issue is that the spell formations have to be remade...”

This light Magus pulled out a white handkerchief from his robes and unceasingly wiped his shiny forehead.

“I’m not worried about that. When is the latest we can start working again?” Leylin stared hard at this Magus who was slightly plump.

“Three... No, two days! At the latest, we’ll be able to resume our work in two days.” The light Magus could feel himself tremble under Leylin’s gaze and quickly promised.

“Two days?” Leylin furrowed his brows and then shook his head. “Far too long! I’ll give you two more Magi and twenty acolytes. The progress has to be 20% faster!”

“Yes, my lord!”

From the aura that Leylin was unwittingly giving off, the light Magus became even more afraid and the sweat on his forehead flowed quicker. He didn’t even have time to wipe it off with his white handkerchief as he agreed.

Leylin nodded, waved his hand, dismissed the person in charge, and began to stroll around the construction site.

Leylin had experiences from an alternate world and was naturally aware that the protection from the headquarters in the secret plane was as good as the rebuilding work after wars in his previous life.

There were two main points in this operation. One, regain the credibility of the administration, and two, guarantee the flow of trade!

In terms of credibility, even though a rank 2 Magus from Four Seasons Garden had died, the main organisation in the external world was still significant enough that no Magus could look down upon them. There was no issue at all.

What was more urgent now was to make the merit points exchange centre operational!

From what Leylin knew, contribution points were the currency in this world. In order to make things work in this place via getting many light Magi to take on missions to help rebuild the area, what did they need?

Merit points! But merit points were a virtual currency that could not be used to trade for material resources directly, and were thus meaningless! With the merit points exchange centre, large amounts of merit points could be given out as the light Magi performed specific tasks, which could then be exchanged. This process would allow Four Seasons Garden to quickly regain their power.

For this reason, even under these conditions, Leylin and Caesar quickly transferred a batch of resources over so that the merit points exchange centre could resume operations.

Though he and Leylin were dark Magi spies, they were extremely cautious, and before they officially took action, they were as dutiful as any other Magus from Four Seasons Garden.

Hence, Leylin would come over occasionally and closely watch the progress of the reconstruction. Caesar was buried in a sea of documents and had to deal with a pile of urgent and frustrating work.

However, this was something he himself had instigated, and it could be said that he had caused himself trouble.

Leylin looked past the acolytes who were busily using earth elemental magic to create large numbers of stone pillars and bricks and approached a few people who were vigilantly surveying the area.

They were all wearing the uniform of Four Seasons Garden, which had lightning insignias on it.

They were members of Desmond's Lightning Corps. Though a rank 2 Magus had left, there was still a vice team leader and two large groups staying guard here!

They were all official Magi who had experienced multiple battles and combined with the formation genie and defensive spell formation, even if a rank 2 Magus were to attack, Leylin and the others had the confidence

that they could withstand the attack for a period of time until reinforcements from the nearby light Magi alliance arrived.

“The system of our defense has been rebuilt. It can’t be said to be watertight, but it’s no problem if we talk about maintaining our current situation. If not for me and Caesar being traitors...”

Leylin felt some pity in his heart.

To be honest, Four Seasons Garden had not treated him very badly. If not for the fact that he had little choice, he did not want to betray them either.

Compared to the dark Magi who would often change their minds, he actually preferred having to deal with the light Magi, who kept their promises, even if this was only applicable to those on the same level of strength as them.

With Reynold and Caesar pushing him into a corner, Leylin had little choice.

Caesar had first let out news of his identity as Thousand Meddling Hands’ Blood Rogue, causing Reynold to become suspicious of him. Caesar had then assigned him to continuously participate in the battlefield, and wherever it was dangerous was everywhere Leylin would go. It was a pace where he could possibly work Leylin to death!

At the end, Reynold had even personally tried to identify Leylin’s identity. This was a very dangerous sign, as this implied that the higher-ups in Four Seasons Garden were already beginning to lose trust in Leylin. Or perhaps, they had never trusted him at all.

Hence, whatever Leylin had done till now to increase his strength was for the sake of survival!

Now, after his bloodline’s second transition and seeing first-hand the strength of a rank 2 Magus from Thousand Meddling Hands, he could now somewhat defend himself and escape. It was for this reason that he could temporarily leave this cycle and worry about Four Seasons Garden and others.

Leylin was not a heartless person. In a situation where his interests were

not affected, he would definitely not mind helping friends and perhaps organisations.

“Under the name of changing the guards, George and the others have been transferred far behind the frontlines, so they should be fine. Dark Magi wouldn’t have any interests in a few pitifully poor acolytes...”

Leylin indifferently pondered.

He was pretty much in possession of a third of the power within Four Seasons Garden’s headquarters in the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane. This amount of power was simply astonishing.

But it was certain that he was going to betray them. In order not to implicate George and others, he could only work in a roundabout way.

“Are you ready?”

At this moment, Caesar appeared like a ghost behind Leylin and asked.

“All ready! We can start anytime!” Leylin nodded, “With us together, he definitely won’t be able to escape even with just what the formation genie grants us access to!”

He and Caesar’s conversations were transmitted using spiritual force, and nobody would find out.

.....

Wade expressionlessly got up from a bed that had a strange smell to it. His face was stiff as he came before a large crystal mirror.

Like a transparent crystal mirror, what was reflected was a person whose hair had withered, facial features sunken and two eyes caved in, much like the corpse of a mummy.

The curse on the dagger that had been used in sneaking an attack on him had constantly been eating at his life, causing his external appearance to undergo changes.

Wade could be considered a pretty boy in the past, but now, any Magus from Four Seasons Garden definitely wouldn’t be able to recognise him.

“Teacher...”

A low mumble emerged from Wade’s dry and cracked lips.

For Wade, the first half of his life was the model of someone who was treasured by the heavens. Since he was young, he had been tested to have the first-rate talent in becoming a Magus, and successfully entered Four Seasons Garden without much trouble. He had even become the student of a powerful rank 2 Magus! He had then advanced to become an official Magus, and even the bottleneck that happened while he was a semi-converted Magus was easily overcome. However, everything had been destroyed the day before. In what seemed like the blink of an eye, his entire world had altered.

Four Seasons Garden’s entrance to the secret plane had been attacked, causing his teacher, Reynold, to die in battle. Even he himself had been struck with a curse that had maggots that burrowed into his flesh and bones, and could not be ridden of. This resulted in his current appearance, where he looked like an abomination.

“Teacher! I’ll definitely avenge you!”

The corpse-like Wade in front of the mirror let out a low howl and a resolute look appeared on his face.

For official Magi like Wade, external appearances were of no concern. As long as he had time, he could slowly choose a look and make changes to achieve it.

This curse was directed at his life force and even his spirit. The moment both were diminished, no healing techniques would be useful!

Originally, he could have chosen to return to the headquarters in the external world and be treated. With the methods of the Magi there, even if they were unable to heal him, it was a large possibility that they could slow the development of the curse and give him more time to come up with more ways to deal with it.

However, for the sake of his teacher, Reynold, Wade firmly chose to stay behind.

He had too many questions regarding his teacher's death. There were also a few suspicious points that he needed to make sense with the help of the investigation team from Four Seasons Garden before he would leave.

Hence, even if the conditions here were simply terrible and the curse was constantly eating at his body and turning him into a horrific state, he would still choose to stay behind.

“My lord! How do you feel today?”

A Magus wearing an armour of thorns entered.

Chapter 253: Divulged

“Goro! It’s you!”

Wade glanced at one of the few surviving members of the Four Seasons Corps, his tone displaying his regret.

That day, he had sustained serious injuries, and practically all of the small team from the Four Seasons Corps had died. All that was left was Goro. As he had fainted because of the explosion, he had narrowly escaped death.

At the sight of Goro, Wade couldn’t help but think back to that scene.

Explosion! Figures! Green mist!

Everything had happened so suddenly that even his secretary who was also his girlfriend, had died in the attack.

“Now, even Goro is probably ridiculing me as well.”

Wade shook his head as he thought, and spoke in a hoarse voice.
“What’s the matter?”

“My lord, I’ve brought you your breakfast!”

Goro placed a silver tray on the table, on which were fruit salad, white bread, and steaming hot milk.

“Thank you!” Wade was silent for a while before he spoke.

“My lord, please be careful!” Goro bent his head slightly and quickly left.

Wade did not have much of an appetite, but for the sake of his teacher and as well as his own wellbeing, he still forced himself to go to the dining table.

He picked up a slice of white bread, preparing to slather some jam on it, but a slip of paper sandwiched in the loaf caught his attention.

Wade retrieved the slip and spread it out.

After being in contact with the warmth of Wade’s fingers, rows of little letters appeared on the originally white paper.

“Danger! Dark Magi have infiltrated the headquarters and are planning to attack you. Leave immediately!”

The words were very strikingly written in red.

Wade stared hard and immediately got up to set up a few detection and isolation spells.

Next, with some astonishment, he focused on the slip in his hands.

“Like I thought, the dark Magi’s attack was way too ferocious, and they knew too much about our defense system. The formation genie was also interfered with, and could not be used at all. There has to be a spy!”

Hatred appeared on his face, “If not for there being a spy, we definitely wouldn’t be in this position, and even... Teacher Reynold wouldn’t...”

His fists were clenched tightly, to the point that a few drops of crimson blood flowed out through the bandages on his hands.

“I’ll definitely find you and avenge my teacher. I swear on it!”

A glint of resolution appeared in Wade’s eyes, and he then rubbed the slip of paper in his hands.

“The paper used is the most ordinary parchment paper. The words were designed to show after coming into contact with my body temperature, so the sender has to be someone I’m familiar with. If he was able to warn me, that means that he’s very clear on whatever’s happened here, but... who could it be?”

Face after face appeared in Wade’s mind, but he quickly pushed this thought down.

“It’s not the time to think about this. Danger? Does this mean someone is planning on attacking me? Within the headquarters?”

Wade didn’t quite believe it.

Pu! Pu! Pu!

At this moment, explosions sounded in the air, and numerous black needles as fine as cow hair penetrated the air. They were sharp glints in

the air, launching towards Wade like raindrops.

“Really?!”

A green shield of vines appeared, and the numerous thin needles struck the surface and produced sparks.

He then dropped to the ground and rolled!

Boom! A black dagger punctured the area that he had previously been, and the bench split apart like tofu. Even the air had been cut, producing two pure, white gusts of wind.

Tss tss! From the area where the chair had been sliced, the sound of an object corroding was heard, with much white smoke accompanying it. The bench that Wade had been sitting on was corroded in a few seconds, not even leaving behind any residue.

The person holding the dagger was a dwarf-like figure.

The dwarf was surrounded by a layer of black gauze, and his movements were extremely agile. After seeing Wade avoid the attack, he pounced towards him like the wind. The black dagger was like the tooth of a poisonous snake, searching for Wade's weak points.

“Formation genie, activate the defense spell formation here, and inform the Lightning Corps!” Wade looked pitiful as he dodged a few attacks, and quickly swiped at a ring on his hand.

Boom! Green mist exploded at the scene, and with this chance, he began to yell.

“Order received! Activating defense at Zone B-7... Beep! Received a different command, cancelling out both. Your authority has temporarily been superseded!”

A robotic female voice sounded by Wade's ear, causing his heart to sink.

The formation genie had control over a large area, which practically included the entire headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden at the Eternal River Plains' secret plane. The moment he activated the power of the formation genie, he would definitely be able to break away from

danger and arrest this killer.

But now, the enemy was even able to control the formation genie! Didn't this mean that the headquarters was now being controlled by the dark Magi?

A huge sense of fear suddenly made itself known. Despite the strong defense here, he could not feel any security and rather, felt like he was being caged in.

At this moment, the green mist in the room dispersed, and the dwarf-like killer's eyes had a cold glint within them. He seemed to transform into a black hurricane, which swept towards Wade.

Teng! Teng! Teng!

Outside the room, footsteps kept sounding. The guard Magi who were outside had heard noises inside and quickly rushed here.

The dwarf suddenly flung something, and the dagger in his hand turned into black lightning, streaking across the air and flying straight for Wade's heart!

"If I weren't seriously injured and cursed, this type of attack..." An unresigned expression appeared on Wade's face, and he quickly tried to avoid the attack.

Pu! The black dagger stabbed his shoulder, leaving behind just the handle exposed.

Large amounts of fresh blood spurted out, and Wade's face paled as he collapsed.

The dwarf quickly ran forward, preparing to deal the final blow!

"Protect the lord!" At this moment, the door to the room was forcibly kicked open and was turned into wood shavings. A few Magi wearing uniforms with lightning designs on them broke in.

Seeing Wade collapsed on the floor, they roared, and a few people produced blue and white electric currents.

The bolt of electricity arced across the air and arrived in front of Wade.

Pak! Pak!

The blue and white electric arcs struck the dwarf, causing green smoke and the smell of charred flesh to spread throughout the room.

The dwarf's body trembled, before he glared hard at Wade as if staring at his prey, and suddenly threw two black balls to the ground!

Poof! A large amount of black gas billowed out and concealed the dwarf's figure. After the gas had dissipated, the dwarf assassin had already disappeared.

"My lord, are you alright? Inform and warn Lord Caesar and Leylin about this!"

The Magi of the Lightning Corps supported Wade and then instructed.

Half an hour later, Wade had already moved to another room, his injuries having been treated. However, while he glanced at his surroundings, terror was beginning to engulf him.

The assassination attempt just now made him feel like something was wrong.

Within the headquarters, an assassin had actually managed to enter without obstruction and suppressed the activation of the formation genie! What did this mean?

"Who could be the thief who seized the authority to command the formation genie? Or is it Caesar? Leylin? Did they both join hands?"

Wade was expressionless as the gears turned in his mind.

"No! The headquarters are extremely dangerous, and there are too many hidden enemies that I don't know of. If things really are like the what slip of paper said, where the dark Magi have infiltrated here, I'm in even more danger..."

Wade glanced around his surroundings. A few Magi were patrolling the area, walking back and forth. After the attack, Caesar had brought over guards, but all he could feel were bad intentions in their gazes, causing him to sweat profusely.

“This isn’t going to work. I need to leave here as quickly as possible; it’ll be best to meet with the academy’s investigation team!”

Wade’s eyes showed his staunch resolve.

“What? Wade’s missing?”

Leylin glanced at Caesar, shocked.

“How did this happen? You couldn’t even carry out such a simple task! He must be suspecting us now!” In front of Leylin was the three-eyed Magus, Caesar, who did not look to be in a good mood.

“Even if he’s an idiot, he’ll definitely know there’s something up with both of us after his authority in using the formation genie was suspended. If he were to report this to the investigation team...”

“That’s impossible!” Leylin shook his head.

“The entrance to the secret plane is in our hands. I’ve checked all the recent records of people entering and exiting; there are no problems. Communication between the secret plane and the external world is very unstable, and the few communication towers we have don’t work unless we use a spell formation exclusively for communication. Unfortunately, with our access to the formation genie, we can seal this entire area and turn him into a caged bird!”

“So the only thing he can do is to escape to other light Magi regions!” Caesar added.

“Exactly! A very daring decision!” Leylin nodded.

The area of the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane was enormous, and the distance between each entrance was vast. One even needed to pass through a few extremely dangerous zones.

The difficulty would be too much for Wade while he was in his best condition, much less while he was cursed.

“This is your problem. You solve it!” Caesar answered in annoyance.

“Alright! This situation is actually what we wanted, though, isn’t it?”

Leylin got up while he continued speaking. “Desmund has been transferred away, and nobody knows whether Wade is dead or alive... In these next few days, he won’t have the chance to communicate with any Magus from the external world. Hence, the entire headquarters of the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane now belongs to us...”

Chapter 254: Query

After having spoken, Leylin made a show of flinging his robes, with the intention to leave.

“What are you doing?”

“To take care of the mess that was left behind, and arrange for the dark Magi to receive access to the information about our defenses and resources...” Leylin’s figure eventually disappeared into the distance, leaving behind the echo of his voice.

Leylin went straight to his room, opened a secret door and revealed a basement.

“My Lord!” A dwarf in black clothing bowed towards Leylin.

“En!” Leylin nodded, and then pointed at the dwarf! A bright light was sent out from his fingertips and disappeared into the dwarf’s forehead.

The dwarf’s body swelled in an instant; green veins wriggling on his flesh like little snakes.

Ka-cha!

The dwarf’s body constantly expanded, and actually transformed from a little dwarf to an adult, burly male!

With the change in his body, his black clothes burst and revealed a manly and handsome figure. However, on what had once been a beautiful male body, all sorts of runic brands now covered it all over that formed a bizarre spell formation.

The man’s body which was laden with brands trembled involuntarily as bead-sized sweat constantly dripping. From the looks of it, such a transformation was extremely uncomfortable, but the burly man gritted his teeth and did not make a sound.

“You did well, Number 2!” Leylin glanced at the burly man and praised him.

“It’s my honour to be able to serve Master!” This burly man was actually

one of the Branded Swordsmen that served Leylin!

With his strength as a Branded Swordsman, the only way for Number 2 to fail in killing Wade, who was already injured and weakened, was according to Leylin's special instructions.

Even the slip of paper that warned Wade was arranged by Leylin.

"I've already helped you. Everything that happens next depends on your luck!"

Leylin lightly sighed, his pupils seemed to penetrate the void and see Wade, who was already fleeing.

He had gone out of the way to do all this.

After all, he was on somewhat good terms with Wade and allowed him to enter Four Seasons Garden. He did somewhat owe Wade.

Though Reynold had bad intentions towards Leylin, and Leylin had struck back mercilessly and indirectly caused Reynold's death, this had nothing to do with Wade. ?

Hence, Leylin did not mind letting him off when it was convenient.

To take it further, Wade right now still had some talent in being a Magus and was not someone Leylin had in his sights. Even if Wade wanted to avenge his father or anything like that, he could just kill Wade.

After this act, Leylin believed he had repaid the debt he owed Wade. If he stupidly decided to provoke Leylin, Wade would immediately be killed. There would be no hesitation.

In Leylin's mind, there was a very clear line.

Wade was now a tiny bit helpful to Leylin, and they were on somewhat good terms, so he could let him off. If they were even closer, Leylin might even arrange for Number 2 and Number 3 to escort him out, rather than letting him fend for himself.

Of course, before all that, the prerequisite was that none of this would harm Leylin's interests. If not, favours and things of that nature were not even worth considering.

“I won’t chase after him anymore, but to make sure everything goes well, Caesar will definitely mobilize dark Magi from Thousand Meddling Hands to kill him. Good luck to you!”

Leylin estimated that the chances of Wade’s survival in the external world were no more than 40%. This was in a situation where his own luck was factored in.

However, this was much better than staying behind in the headquarters, where he was sure to die. Hence, Leylin sighed a little and quickly pushed this matter to the back of his mind, and ordered Number 2 and Number 3 to conceal themselves in order to be his trump cards. Without telling anyone, Leylin came to the region where the core of the formation genie was.

Whatever Caesar had ordered him to do, had naturally been disregarded. Did Caesar dare to fall out with him just over such a trivial matter?

The core of the formation genie was now situated at the heart of the headquarters of Four Seasons Gardens, not far from what had been Reynold’s office.

Here, with every step he took, he could see many light Magi who appeared quite solemn as they went about their tasks. Amongst these Magi, not only were there Magi from Four Seasons Garden, there were also a few Magi from the Lightning Corps.

In Leylin’s eyes, the core of the formation genie was just like a generator room essential for the upkeep of the defense spell formation. The defense spell formation that guarded Four Seasons Garden was extremely important, and with the previous attack, the status and need for such defensive mechanisms was elevated by several times.

However, it was but a decoration in Leylin’s eyes. He was one of the two most important people in Four Seasons Garden now, and not only did these Magi not question his being here, but they bowed to him.

After sending away the Magi outside, Leylin entered the room in which the spirit genie was located.

This room was very empty, and wisps of cool air floated about, which caused the temperature to drop.

In the centre of the room, the metal pillars within what was the main body of the formation genie that Leylin had seen the previous time were standing tall.

Usually, this sort of formation genie was a being that had no consciousness and only carried out procedures. It could not compare to Leylin's A.I. Chip, but to be able to construct this thing with magic was something that astounded Leylin to no end.

This was the product formed by a rank 1 and rank 2 Magus. Did that mean that rank 3 or 4 Magi could use magic and produce artificial intelligence, and even generate life?

There was a level of excitement in Leylin's heart, as well as some vigilance. Though he had the A.I. Chip and had a much better start than the other Magi, the developed brains of highly ranked Magi were comparable to regular computers. His advantage was becoming less obvious, and would eventually be rendered obsolete.

However, he was still very confident!

Even if there was a day where the advantages the A.I. Chip granted him were evened out, or even surpassed by other Magi, he was confident he would accumulate enough power before that happened and would not fear any challenges!

With a grin on his face, Leylin pressed the palm of his hand to the surface of the metal pillar.

"Welcome, Magus Leylin Farlier, an authority of seven stars! Please choose the function you require!"

The formation genie's voice sounded in Leylin's mind, instantly separating a few fundamental modules, which included: the monitoring of the spell formation, checking information, alteration of basic runes and so on.

Leylin's spiritual force touched the module that allowed him to check for

information. Immediately afterwards, a large amount of information appeared in his mind.

This formation genie was, in actuality, a massive central computer, with large amounts of information about the Magi of Four Seasons Garden, recorded in its database.

What he had right now was access to everything except a few absolutely secret documents.

“Map to the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane! Distribution of resources! The best missions! Inventory of each warehouse! Backup of academic knowledge!”

A subdirectory dazzled Leylin as it streamed past his eyes. This was just a newly-formed formation genie, and if it were a high-level formation genie that had recorded over a thousand years of history in Four Seasons Garden, all the information within would cause Leylin’s brain to explode.

[A platform to control data entry has been discovered! Proceed with remote control?] At this moment, the A.I. Chip’s voice sounded by Leylin’s ear.

“Yes!” Leylin nodded.

Next, a streak of spiritual force covered the metal pillar.

“A.I. Chip! Make a copy of the information stored in the formation genie, and establish a catalogue for browsing!] Leylin ordered.

[Beep! Mission established! Beginning copy of information! Progress: 1% ...34%... 100%!]

The A.I. Chip’s efficiency was extremely shocking, and the amount it could store far exceeded Leylin’s expectations. All the information stored in the formation genie only required a few seconds to be duplicated, and it had not taken up that much space either.

“It looks like after transmigrating, not only did the A.I. Chip fuse with my spirit, its storage space has also been increased. Even if I were to copy information from a high-level formation genie like the one in Four

Seasons Garden that has over a thousand years' worth of information stored within, there wouldn't be any problems..."

Glee flashed by Leylin's face, and he then commanded, "Search! Rare items column!"

Instantly after, a picture was sent to the A.I. Chip to be compared with. It was a bizarre honeycomb coal briquette, with many pearls that looked like eyeballs, was dazzling and demonic!

This was what Leylin had found after sweeping through the main warehouse of the headquarters of Four Seasons Garden. It was definitely a top-grade item found within the secret plane.

Though Leylin had no idea what it was, and there was no record of it in the A.I. Chip's database, the rank 2 Magus Reynold was sure to recognise it. If not, he would not have treated it so precious and protected it well.

With this image, there was sure to be a record of it in the formation genie.

As expected, after adding the database from the formation genie, the A.I. Chip quickly produced an answer.

[The fossil of the flesh from a Thousand Eyes Starfish! Degree of rarity: Level 5S. Place of discovery: Liema Channel in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane. Note Taker: Reynold.]

"Thousand Eyes Starfish! It seems to be an ancient creature!" Leylin rubbed his chin and looked through the introduction to its uses.

"The flesh of the Thousand Eyes Starfish contains extremely rich life energy, and can instantly regenerate a broken limb, and even give Magi at the brink of death a chance to live. It is also very effective in the strengthening of organs. With just a gram of the flesh of the Thousand Eyes Starfish, it can increase the rate of the organ's adaptability by two levels!"

Leylin had a crazed look of excitement in his eyes as he read up to this point.

“Adaptability of the organ? Doesn’t that mean it’s useful in the remodelling of my heart?” The progress of the remodelling of his heart had been stuck at 69%.

After all, reforming the body was a very dangerous process, especially as Leylin intended to transform his heart such that it was similar to that of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent.

Chapter 255: Contribution Token

Even in Leylin's previous life, during the process of transplanting organs, there would always be the possibility of the body rejecting the new organ.

It was like this for transplanting between human bodies, and especially so for an exceptionally powerful organ such as the heart of an ancient being that was to be stuck into the body of an ordinary Magus.

Even with the help of magic, Leylin had to spend large amounts of time to increase the compatibility of his body and the heart.

The progress of the remodelling of his heart had slowed considerably.

Now, however, the flesh of the Thousand Eyes Starfish was actually able to suppress the body's antibodies and increase the rate at which organs adapted to the host body. How could this not get Leylin excited?

After knowing the uses of the flesh of the Thousand Eyes Starfish that he now possessed, Leylin left the room in a better mood. Soon after, a message came for him.

"What? Does someone want to see me? And is holding a rank 1 contribution token?" Leylin rubbed his chin and asked, "Who is it?"

The person who came forward to notify him was a young female Magus, who reverently gazed at Leylin. Well, after being transformed by his bloodline, his appearance would be lauded as 'handsome' no matter where he went. Also, for him to have reached the level of rank 1 Magus at such a young age showed that he was frighteningly strong! This caused a reasonably large commotion, which resulted in admiration and adoration from many female Magi.

"It's an old, and very... haughty lady!"

The female Magus ducked her head and thought for a moment, and then chose these words.

"An old, haughty lady?" Leylin was stunned, and then a slight smile appeared on his lips. He had already guessed who it was, "Bring her to conference room 3. I'll meet her there!"

The female Magus bowed and quickly retreated.

Leylin was left behind, looking as if he was deep in thought. From the curse he had planted on Manla and Jenna's body, he could somewhat tell what was happening around them.

After seeing the curses on Manla's body detonate, Leylin had a feeling that the family behind Jenna would try to compromise with him. From the looks of the current situation, this had come true.

Come to think of it, the time for the curse to take full effect was nearing. They must have tried all the methods they had access to, and only after having no other way did they choose to compromise with him.

"What should I ask for this time?" Leylin scratched his chin. He did not have any good feelings towards this family that considered themselves above others and was preparing to make them pay a high price and watch them fall to rock bottom.

"However, to be so arrogant on my territory..." A cold glint flashed in Leylin's eyes.

Three hours later, in conference room 3, the piercing screech of an old woman's voice could be heard, "I don't care what he's doing, but I've already been waiting here for over three hours. No matter what you do, I want to see him now. Immediately! If not, I'll use my contribution token and fire you! I swear on it!"

Crash! Next, the sound of glass breaking could be heard.

The female Magus who had notified Leylin ran out, her expression unhappy, "That darned old lady. Is she commanding just because she has a contribution token? One day..."

The female Magus cursed under her breath. All of a sudden, a shadow loomed over her, revealing the figure of a Magus.

"Lord-Lord Leylin! There's a guest who wants to see you!" She was shocked and immediately bowed, her cheeks rosy red.

"I understand!" Leylin restrained his laughter with great difficulty, and

the female Magus walked into the room looking a little dazed.

He had purposefully taken a longer period of time to come over here so that she would calm her anger. However, for people like her, whose spirit had affected her neurotic characteristic, time was not going to change anything.

“Didn’t I say to call Leylin over...”

Conference room 3 was very large, with a few long leather sofas and a few tables in the middle. This was where guests could comfortably sit, have a drink and chat.

Now, however, one of the tables had been flipped over, and there were the shattered remains of a few cups and plates on the ground. An old woman who had on the clothes of the upper class had her face covered with gauze. She wore black gloves and held onto a small bag, her temper foul.

Upon seeing Leylin, she was at first stunned, and then hatred shot out of her eyes.

The old woman’s chest constantly heaved up and down, as if trying to suppress the fury in her heart. Then, with a haughty accent, she spoke, “Leylin, is it? You actually dare to offend our noble Botelli family! This is an absolute sin! However, the mother of power and peace is benevolent and merciful. Now, confess to your wrongdoings and cure Jenna! I can even consider lightening your sentence.”

While she spoke, she acted as if she was being noble to him by allowing him to repent, as if he had committed a huge sin that required her forgiveness.

“Hold on!” Such a pitying gaze made Leylin extremely annoyed, and he rudely interrupted her.

“What? Are you preparing to confess?” The old woman held her head high.

“No! I just wanted to ask you, are you crazy?” Leylin did not beat around the bush.

“What did you say?” The old woman’s expression showed her shock. She could not believe that someone dared to speak to her in such a manner.

“If you didn’t hear it clearly, I’ll say it again. “ Leylin’s voice rose a couple of notches. “Are. You. Crazy?”

“You-You actually dare...” The old woman pointed at Leylin, the joints in her fingers turning white and trembling in her anger.

“You actually dare to speak to me, the current wielder of power in the Botelli family, in such a manner! You even dare tarnish my family’s reputation! Hell forbid! I’d even been so kind as to hope that I could pardon you... Oh, powerful and merciful mother of peace, please forgive my stupidity...”

“Stop!” Leylin did not wish to listen to this any longer. He was now clear of the situation. Jenna’s family, which was the Botelli family, must have a family illness of craziness!

“I’m just going to say one thing. Only I am able to undo the curse on Jenna’s body, and she is very important to you. After trying all available methods, you had no choice but to come here and ask me for help. Since you’re here to ask for a favour, you must first have a good attitude!”

Leylin raised a finger. “If not, you can only watch as Jenna dies!”

Such an unrestrained way of speech seemed to pierce through the old lady’s pretense of being honourable, the redness on her face quickly dying away, and leaving her looking pale.

“I knew it! There’s no use in bargaining with sinners like you because you’ll just try to make use of us. The only thing awaiting you is eternal death...”

The old woman incessantly muttered.

“You...” The anger in his heart stirred.

However, immediately after, his facial expression slightly changed and he calmed down.

At this moment, the old lady took out a gold token that was the size of

her palm, swaying it in front of Leylin and grinning proudly. “See this? This is a rank 1 contribution token my ancestors received from the Four Seasons Garden. It makes me a noble here, and if I choose to use it, the Four Seasons Garden has to fulfil one of my requests! I wonder if I want them to expel you, what would happen?”

“So the reason why you were this unrestrained was because you have a token!”

Leylin suddenly felt the urge to laugh. Not even counting the fact that he was planning to leave the Four Seasons Garden, he did not view them very highly in the first place. However, this old woman seemed to be banking her hopes on the Four Seasons Garden, and used it as a method to threaten him.

“Whatever it is, you now have two choices. The first is to obediently admit to your wrongdoings and come back with me to cure Jenna. The second is to be banished from the Four Seasons Garden, and eventually, be chased down and killed!”

A victorious smile emerged on her face.

“...” Leylin was speechless as he glanced at this old woman, suddenly finding her a little pitiful.

The Four Seasons did have such a rule, and the rank 1 contribution token in her hands was also authentic. Unfortunately, she was a few days late!

If she had arrived here a few days earlier, she might have been able to use the power of this token, and, with the Four Seasons Garden to suppress him.

But now? Leylin looked at the token in her hands.

“That’s right! She probably still doesn’t know about us being attacked, Reynold’s death, and me taking over...”

The attack had been classified as top secret, and the Four Seasons Garden entrance to the secret plane had even been sealed for a period of time. It was impossible for regular Magi to know about this.

As a result of a time difference and various other factors, this old woman was obviously still not aware that this branch of the Four Seasons Garden had already changed owners, what with her charging in so loudly and brazenly.

“What’s wrong? Can’t make a choice? Do you want me to help you?”

Leylin’s long silence gave her the impression that he was afraid. Hence, the expression on her face was more arrogant, and she loudly bellowed, “Guards! Guards!”

“What is the matter?”

Minutes later, a few Magi in white robes charged in.

“In the name of the Four Seasons Garden, I command you to arrest Leylin!” The old woman raised the gold token in her hands, which flashed and glinted to form a four-coloured ring. An energy wave with a very recognizable frequency was emitted.

“It’s a rank 1 contribution token! It can’t be fake!” The guard Magi glanced at it bowed to greet the old woman.

She nodded, still exuding arrogance.

“Capture him!” She pointed at Leylin.

“Him?” A few guard Magi looked at the old woman, then at Leylin, finding this situation difficult to handle.

“What’s wrong?” Her voice was piercing, to the point that one wanted to close their ears, “Do you wish to go against an age-old agreement?”

Chapter 256: Threats

“I guess I should let you know!”

Seeing this old lady acting like this, Leylin suddenly found her quite pitiful and lost the urge to play with her any further.

He waved at the few guards. “You may return first.”

“Yes, my lord!” The guards gave Leylin a deep bow, appearing as if a heavy weight had been lifted off their shoulders, and quickly dashed out of the room.

“Wait! What did they call you? My lord? Aren’t you just a regular Magus from the Potioneering Team? Aren’t you also ostracised?”

The old woman spoke agitatedly. She could feel that things were beyond her control as if a stone had lodged deep in her heart.

“It seems like you’ve investigated me quite thoroughly! Unfortunately, I’ve climbed up the ranks a little faster than that...”

Leylin spread his hands, a mischievous grin on his face.

Was he merely fast in climbing to this position? He had practically flown here! First, by killing large numbers of dark Magi, he had obtained the position of the vice team leader of the hunting team. With his battle achievement of killing Marb, he had been named the patrolling inspector of the headquarters. In theory, he was just as powerful as Caesar, the leader of the hunting team.

After the attack of the dark Magi and Reynold’s death, he had seized a third of the power within this branch of Four Seasons Garden. But wait, there’s more! After chasing Wade out, the authority he possessed had increased to two-thirds!

His position was infinitely nearing the chairman with this much power! This old woman only had a rank 1 contribution token, which was useless against a team leader, much less Leylin.

Next, the smirk on his face vanished, and his expression turned solemn.

“Formation genie, record this down! This... Ahem! This person who holds the power in the Botelli family overstepped her authority and ordered for my arrest, with a rank 1 contribution token. I hereby announce that she be stripped of the authority and the contribution token in her hands!”

Weng! Magical light brightened in the middle of the room, and the walls were filled with a ring of wandering illuminated runes.

“Recorded! Verifying! Verification complete. Removing authority from rank 1 contribution token!”

A robotic female voice was heard, and the rays of light from magic suddenly flashed outwards.

The old lady seemed to be scared silly by such a strong energy wave. If all the spell formations around them exploded in one go, her body would simply vanish.

The colourful magic rays did not attack her, but transformed into a hand the size of an adult, grabbing the rank 1 contribution token in her possession!

Then, the fingers exerted force!

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The sound of an object breaking sounded. A web of cracks spread across the surface of the entire token, and under the hopeless gaze of the old woman, it turned into little bits of dust.

Tss tss! The magical light receded after destroying the token. Even the spell formation on the wall vanished.

The old woman was now like a duck grasped at the neck, unable to utter a word.

She naturally knew the amount of authority needed to be able to order the formation genie to destroy a rank 1 contribution token! That was something only the chairman was able to do! Could it be that this young man had already advanced to become a rank 2 Magus, and had become the chairman of the Four Seasons Garden?

This world was just too crazy. The old woman supported her head, feeling as if she was dreaming!

“How is it? Do you have any other trump cards? You can try using them!” Leylin crossed his arms, staring icily at this old woman.

Her heart fell. Her family was now not in a very good position. This token, which was something their ancestors had left behind, was the last resort, but had been rendered useless without properly being made use of! She herself would even be in trouble upon returning!

“What do you want?”

Her voice was hoarse as if she had aged by ten years. She bent her back, and then released the pride from her tone, completely defeated.

“What do you want?” Leylin sounded innocent.

“Your granddaughter came up to me, saying I’m the main cause of a war and wanted to purify me. I was forced to strike back and gave them a lifeline when I could have simply just killed them. I’m already being very kind, and now you even want to threaten me!”

Leylin was indeed the victim in this affair, except for the fact that he had retaliated with just a little too much strength.

“Jenna is the seer of our generation. Her predictions can’t be wrong!” The old woman persisted.

“You...” Leylin was exasperated but calmed his heart. There was no point in arguing over a trivial matter such as this.

“Alright, now it’s time for me to name my conditions! My requirements are simple. I’m interested in that divination ability of Jenna’s. Impart me this technique, and I’ll release the curse on her!”

“Oh, Mother of Peace! Not only does a sinner like you want to control us, you even dare to covet our family’s meditation technique!”

She clutched her chest as if she was on the verge of going crazy.

“Is it a meditation technique? Or even a high-grade meditation technique?” Leylin was suddenly very interested.

“Don’t even think about it, you monster! Devil! Don’t even think about trying to obtain our Botelli Family’s meditation technique!” The old woman resolutely rejected him, a cold glint that could not be concealed flashing past her eyes.

“Hehe... You may not know this, but the curse on Jenna’s body can only be released by me. Otherwise, you could try finding a Morning Star Magus, or else you’ll just be waiting for a dead body.”

“I’ll give you one day! Think it through!”

Leylin clapped his hands and two guards immediately entered.

“Send this lady away to get some rest. Do not be negligent!” Leylin’s tone was slightly different, and the two Magi who knew what he was implying quickly came before the old woman, ready to take care of her.

Leylin nodded and left.

Though the old woman had concealed it well, the coldness in her eyes was still apparent to Leylin. All that she was thinking had long since been discovered by Leylin.

“Trying to swindle me with a fake meditation technique? No! Magi are intelligent people! If you give me a fake one, I’ll definitely know. If I can’t tell, I can just find a few acolytes and perform tests on them... Unless... If she really gives me a high-grade meditation technique, but it has a very obvious flaw! Only with these conditions will Magi who lack high-grade meditation techniques be tempted to use it...”

“What a pity!” Leylin cracked a smile.

If he was a Magus without a high-grade meditation technique, he would definitely be unable to resist the temptation, and would end up training in it. After all, it represented an increased chance of advancing, as well as insuring a better future.

Unfortunately, he already had a high-grade meditation technique of his own—Kemoyin’s Pupil! No matter how amazing the Botelli family’s meditation technique was, he would only use it as a reference, and wouldn’t do something so stupid as to switch meditation techniques.

With a smile on his lips, Leylin went inside a secret room.

The four walls of this secret room were made of thick stone, with numerous runes that could isolate energy placed all over.

In the middle was a rather strangely shaped, little stone counter. Three pillars supported a triangular section, large amounts of green vines crawled along it.

“Formation genie, activate the communication spell formation!” Leylin spoke.

“Authority verified! Activating communication spell formation!” As the formation genie spoke, a dusky splendour shot out from the little stone counter, and all the runes in the room began to glimmer.

Leylin nodded upon seeing this. Communication between the secret plane and the external world was all but impossible, and could only work through a particular communication spell formation.

This was a specially constructed communication spell formation that could penetrate the isolation effect of the secret plane and was considerably expensive. The Four Seasons Garden only had this one formation in the entire Eternal River Plains’ secret plane.

Before, Wade’s authority to communicate with the outside world was sealed through the combined efforts of Leylin and Caesar. Hence, in a situation where he could not contact anyone, Wade had no choice but to flee.

Leylin took out his own secret imprint book and flipped through to the most recent page. At the end was a blue imprint that looked like a beacon.

Leylin lightly tapped it.

Boom! The blue beacon suddenly became bigger, and the runes in the room unceasingly lit up.

A red line shot out of the stone counter, connecting to the surface of the blue beacon secret imprint.

“Is this Sir Hyder? How have you been feeling recently?” Leylin asked,

full of smiles.

“It’s... you! Quick! Give me the cure!”

From within the blue secret imprint, a haggard voice came on and off, as if the owner had been severely injured or was being tortured by some illness.

The owner of this voice was Hyder, the Magus who was on good terms with the Botelli Family, who had been invited by the old woman to treat Jenna!

Previously, he had failed in his treatment methods. Not only had he been infected by a poison that Leylin had made himself, but the poison had also come with a communication imprint.

Hence, Leylin was able to know a lot about the Botelli Family.

The grin on Leylin’s face widened. “Sir Hyder, I want to tell you something quite unfortunate! The wielder of power in the Botelli family has already approached me. She implored me to remove Jenna’s curse, but never said anything about you...”

Upon hearing his words, the imprint became quiet, and then came the sound of something breaking. “That whore, that lunatic! To think I worked so hard for her... Cough cough...”

After just two sentences, Hyder began to cough violently.

Leylin’s smile was even brighter. “Sir Hyder! How’s the effect of my ‘Shadow Corrosion’? I spent a lot of effort on it! You’re also a very outstanding healing Magus. I would like to know your evaluation of it!”

After a long time, Leylin once again heard Hyder’s voice from the secret imprint. “You’ve won. The composition of the poison is much too complicated, and they’re intricately linked together. I really have no way to remove it... Give me the cure, and not just medication to suppress it, and I’ll tell you everything I know!”

“Fine! I want to know everything, especially your knowledge regarding the contents of the meditation technique.”

Chapter 257: Thousand Eyed Starfish

A day later, Leylin met the old woman from the Botelli Family once more.

This time, however, she looked to be pale and in a bad state, as if she had not rested well.

At the sight of Leylin, her eyes seemed to come to life and she spoke in a low voice, "I can give you information regarding the secret high-grade meditation technique that belongs to our family. However, I want to make this clear first. This technique is incomplete, and there are stringent limits and restrictions applied to those who train in it. If you were to forcefully train in it, there are sure to be residual effects."

"That's my problem. Just give me the meditation technique, and I'll give you the solution to releasing the curse. It's as easy as that!" Leaning against the comfy back of his reclining chair, Leylin's fingers were crossed as he calmly spoke.

"Fine! But we will first need to make a contract with the presence of the Trial's Eye!" The old woman straightened her back.

"Of course! I don't trust you either." Leylin nodded. "Let's start..."

A moment later, the old woman took what she wanted and left. Leylin was left on his chair, fiddling with a light golden crystal ball, and looking to be deep in thought.

"What an interesting meditation technique!"

He had briefly looked through the contents of the meditation technique the old woman had given him. Due to the contract under the watch of the Trial's Eye, she did not dare cheat him, though Leylin had found out she had pulled a few tricks as well.

For instance, she had either exaggerated or understated a few facts.

Based on what Hyder had said, male Magi in the Botelli family who had forcefully trained in this high-grade meditation technique had all died after going mad. However, all that was written here was that there would

be aftereffects that would affect one's mind.

The old woman had also exaggerated the effects of training in this meditation technique, distorting the fact that one could catch glimpses of some vague fragments of the future into one being able to see the future.

Upon seeing the frightening effects of a high-grade meditation technique that could aid one in seeing the future, most Magi would not hesitate to train in it. They would then fall into the old woman's trap!

"How clever, but that's it!" Leylin assessed as he played with the crystal ball that had information about the meditation technique recorded within it.

As the meditation technique the old woman had given him was real, it complied with the Trial's Eye contract. There were only a couple of small changes that she made to the results and side effects, which would not cause the Trial's Eye to retaliate against her.

However, in Leylin's eyes, whatever she did was just a joke!

"However, the fact that there is an ability to predict the future is quite alarming. Through the spiritual force from the supernatural world, one can sense fragments of what's to happen in the future..."

Leylin rubbed his chin. He had briefly looked through the technique, through which, with training, Magi could practice and form a unique type of spiritual force. With the extension of this spiritual force, one could then gain information and see images relating to the future.

In general, the results were astounding, but unfortunately, the technique was incomplete.

"A.I. Chip, how's the scanning and recording process going?"

Leylin asked inwardly.

[Beep! Information on "Sacred Flame", a high-grade meditation technique, has been recorded! Inputted into database, "Meditation techniques" Classified information as five stars]

The A.I. Chip intoned.

[After scanning through, the percentage of incompleteness of the meditation technique is at least 79.52%. If this technique is trained in, it will result in mental issues. Chances of developing bipolarism is at 98%!]

“98%!? Then there’s definitely going to be a problem!” Leylin sighed and then asked, “A.I. Chip, is it possible to complete this meditation technique?”

He suspected that the strict limitations of one’s body and bloodline, as well as the horrifying aftereffects, were all issues borne from the incomplete state of the technique. If the rest of it could be filled in, most of the problems would be solved.

[Beep! Due to a lack of information regarding high-grade meditation techniques, this technique cannot be completed.]

Unsurprisingly, this was the A.I. chip’s answer.

There was nothing he could do. High-grade meditation techniques were connected to the life or death of a Magi organisation or family. Even with his power now, he could only get ahold of two high-grade meditation techniques. One was his own Kemoyin’s Pupil, and the other was the incomplete Sacred Flame!

Based on his guess, the A.I. Chip would need a large number of samples to analyse and compare. Only after that would it be able to analyse and complete the Sacred Flame technique.

The samples required would be around ten high-grade meditation techniques! They also would have to be completed.

Ten high-grade meditation techniques? Leylin gave a long sigh. Even in the entire south coast, it was uncertain if there were that many high-grade meditation techniques. With his current power, it would be impossible for him to obtain them.

“No matter what it is, this is still a high-grade meditation technique. It’s priceless!”

Leylin caressed the golden crystal ball in his hands. All of a sudden, black mist appeared within his hands. Ka-cha! Ka-cha! Cracks appeared

on the surface of the crystal ball, and the ball turned into dust in front of Leylin's eyes.

All the information about Sacred Flame had already been recorded in the A.I. Chip's database, and he would not be able to lose it. There was no point in keeping this crystal ball, and Leylin was naturally a little suspicious of anything the old woman left behind, and he found it best to destroy it.

.....

Within Leylin's room, in a laboratory.

As one of the two current leaders of the Four Seasons Garden's branch in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, arranging a better room and a laboratory for himself was nothing difficult.

This laboratory had once been provided to Magi who were team leaders. The equipment here was the best and newest technology brought in from the external world; no laboratory that Leylin had worked in in his previous world could compare to this.

Leylin was currently in front of a large, silver experiment table. On the surface of the metallic table, there was a black honeycomb-like coal briquette that silently lay there. There were many depressions on the surface of it, in the middles of which were dark green pearls that emitted dazzlingly bright lights.

This was one of the three most precious ingredients found in the main warehouse of Four Seasons Garden—the fossil of the Thousand Eyed Starfish!

After receiving the information regarding its name and uses from the formation genie, Leylin quickly found himself a laboratory, and prepared himself to make good use of it.

“The flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish has already turned into a fossil. It's going to be troublesome to extract and use the useful portions of it; I'm going to need many potions to do that. Thankfully, I have this...”

Leylin laughed, retrieving a mysterious test tube from his pouch.

After obtaining the spatial high-grade magic artifact made from the skin of the Void White-eyed snake, Leylin had placed all his belongings into it. As all of his baggage was gone, Leylin now looked much slimmer.

The entire test tube was made from glass, and the liquid contained within had a very strange colour. The top half was an olive colour, while the bottom half was a greyish-black. There was a clear line of separation between these two.

“A high-grade Reactive Potion! Even in ancient times, this was one of the most precious potions used to awaken the life energy hidden deep within an item!”

The formula for making this ancient potion had been found within the database of the formation genie. As a few of the ingredients required to brew it had already gone extinct, this formula was not made confidential. For Reynold, this was probably something of little interest.

But Leylin was different! The resources he possessed through looting and extortion were plentiful, and he was easily able to gather the required ingredients.

As for the ingredients that were extinct? Fortunately, Leylin had them!

While he was still a level 3 acolyte exploring the Dylan Gardens, not only had he gained the high-grade meditation technique and the Book of Giant Serpents, he had even obtained a few extremely precious plants!

These ingredients were much too precious, so Leylin could not bear to use them. He kept all of them after going through some procedures to keep them fresh.

Now, however, after obtaining the formula to make the high-grade active potion, he suddenly came to the realisation that the few ingredients that were known to be extinct were, in fact, plants that he possessed!

This was simply too lucky for him! Now that he had gathered all the ingredients, coupled with the fact that Leylin himself was a highly-accomplished Potion Master, brewing the potion was a very simple task.

Along with Leylin's chants, the test tube opened up like a flower, and a

putrid stench spread around the room.

Drip by drip, Leylin carefully positioned each droplet onto the green pearls of the Thousand Eyed Starfish.

Leylin's movements were extremely careful, smearing the amount evenly on every pearl.

By the time the last of the olive-coloured potion was used up, the fossil suddenly began to squirm.

"Awaken!" His eyes flashing with excitement, Leylin's lips moved as he softly murmured.

He had used the ancient Byron language, which seemed to draw power from the supernatural world.

Weng weng!

Invisible strength wrapped the Thousand Eyed Starfish within, and the potion evaporated and emitted black and white gases.

The black and white gases merged in the air, forming the multiple black and white eyes.

Whoosh...

With what sounded like a big wave, the flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish constantly trembled, layers of rock falling off of it.

Tss tss!

Green eyes blinked open; those olive pearls in the depressions were actually the eyes of the Thousand Eyed Starfish!

"Begin deep heating! Preset temperature at 1548 degrees!"

Complying with Leylin's voice, two large, mechanical arms suddenly rose from under the table. They were extremely shiny and seemed to be made of metal, but at the joints, there were traces of the slight movements that were reminiscent of real flesh.

The large arms scooped up the Thousand Eyed Starfish and placed it into what looked like a furnace.

Chapter 258: Accomplishment

“Prepare the centrifuge! Beginning cooperation...”

Leylin shut his eyes, and black threads shot out from between his brows, connecting to the various apparatus in the laboratory.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The light flickered, and the apparatus in the laboratory were activated. Any instrument that had a measuring function began to show numbers and pointers on gauges moved.

With the threads of spiritual force, Leylin worked on purifying his spiritual force and began the complicated separation process.

Two hours later, Leylin looked at the half-finished product on the table and nodded.

On the surface of the table was a piece of pink flesh.

This had been the fossil of the Thousand Eyed Starfish. Leylin had fully expended the life force within it and had gotten rid of all the olive-coloured eyes.

There was a very troublesome poison held within the eyes of the Thousand Eyed Starfish, and as such, they needed to be removed.

The Thousand Eyed Starfish currently seemed to have returned to its original state, the tender flesh having a gleaming luster, as if it had only just been dug out, and was still covered in a layer of liquid.

“Yes! The separation operation was very successful! All that’s left is the last step.”

Leylin took out the grey-black, high-grade Reactive Potion, of which only half remained. He poured all of it onto the pink flesh.

Tss tss!

The moment the grey-black potion was poured onto the flesh, large amounts of steam were produced. Through it, one could see the pink flesh decreasing in size at a rate that could be seen with the human eye. The

flesh seemed to shrivel up and turn black.

Leylin expressionlessly used up all the liquid, and then chanted some ancient incantations.

“Wu wu wu...” These incantations were ancient, with a very boundless aura. It sounded like countless conch shells being blown at the same time. Blue waves of energy were like sweeping tides, wrapping around the flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish...

After the blue light dissipated, all that was left was an object the size of a longan.

The object was grey in colour and even had lines that characterized muscle. It looked like salt-cured meat that had not been properly preserved.

The salty meat began to emit the smell of something burning.

Rumble!

Upon smelling this, Leylin actually couldn't help but swallow his saliva, a distinct look of longing appearing from the depths of his heart.

“Eat it! Eat it!”

“Hungry! Hungry! Hungry!”

This thirst seemed to come from every cell in his body. It was extremely difficult to resist, and this feeling was the strongest at his chest, where his heart was.

Leylin could feel every blood vessel in his body pumping in excitement, urging him to swallow that piece of flesh on the table!

“Ah... haha... Primal desires? How can a mere thing like it control me?”

Leylin's eyes turned a little red, and even his hands began to tremble.

However, he did not choose to consume the flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish right away. He first used the A.I. Chip to analyse its composition and nature in detail.

During this whole time, the meat in his hand was a huge temptation for

him. However, even though every cell in his body shook with excitement, his expression stayed the same, as if he was unaffected—as cool and grim as a glacier that had existed for thousands of years.

In his previous life, he had already developed an extremely staunch willpower. No matter how fierce and deadly the temptation, he could still control and stabilise his inner desires.

[Recorded composition of this object! Saved in folder: Material type-Ancient Creature-Thousand Eyed Starfish!] The A.I. Chip replied.

Only after the stream of data finished working did Leylin gobble down longan sized meat.

Boom!

Like a bomb that had exploded, his entire body was paralysed by lightning, like a drunkard who had abstained for years and once more had fine liquor, or like a traveler who was on the verge of death from his thirst and had finally savoured the sweet taste of spring water!

Leylin felt as if his body was floating, lying on the peak of white clouds. There was joy coming from every cell in his body.

An exceptionally sweet and refreshing feeling spread from his mouth and down his throat.

The flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish first went to his stomach. Gastric fluid rushed forward, and in just a few seconds, digested it completely.

Streams of water like from a hot spring spread throughout Leylin's body, and especially his heart was like a person dying of thirst, greedily absorbing this warm flow.

Leylin closed his eyes. He felt as if he was naked, flowing along a warm and comfortable large river.

A droplet of something moist suddenly rolled down his face. It was exceptionally sweet, exciting his taste buds to the extreme to the point that he unconsciously began to tear up.

For him, who had a physique that far exceeded that of a regular person, it was basically impossible for him to react in such a way, but the flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish was able to do it!

“I’m afraid such a taste might make one addicted!” Leylin exclaimed in satisfaction.

The process of consuming the Thousand Eyed Starfish was just too comfortable and pleasurable. The stimulation of one’s body and mind was definitely enough to make any regular human addicted!

However, Leylin was a Magus, and he was basically invulnerable in terms of his mind. His awareness of himself was as strong as steel, which was how he was able to keep ahold of himself and resist this temptation.

At this moment, the robotic voice of the A.I. Chip was heard.

[Beep! Detected that the essence from the flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish has entered Host’s body. Determined to be useful to Host body! Beginning absorption...]

In that moment, Leylin retreated two steps. He could feel the rate at which he was absorbing the hot stream increase by another level. At the place where his heart was, it was practically a black hole which steadily absorbed the essence.

[Beep! Host body has absorbed flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish. Rate of modification of host body’s heart has substantially increased.]

The A.I. Chip began to work hard, the screen in front of him changing rapidly. Immediately after, Leylin could see in the column that displayed his stats, the number that showed the progress of the modification of his heart flying up quickly.

[70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%!]

The number rose like a fiery arrow but faltered slightly at the 90% mark. What came next was an eruption of heat, and the progress broke through 90% to reach 91%, and continued to rise!

[97%! 98%! 99%! 100%!!!]

When the modification of his heart reached 100%, Leylin suddenly felt faint, as if he had been pounded on the head with a large metal hammer.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His heart, surrounded by purple-red light, seemed to stop for a while.

Next, his heart began to once again pump with a huge amount of force!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

This force was extremely powerful, to the point that people would be able to hear his heart beating from outside Leylin's body!

Blood that held hints of purplish red began to form at his heart. Through his arteries, they were transported all over his body.

The purplish-red blood, which had a slight chilling quality to it, formed a stark contrast with the heat from the flesh of the Thousand Eyed Starfish.

Leylin suddenly felt an overwhelming orgasmic feeling coursing through his body. Minutes later, the heat dissipated, and what replaced it was an extremely comfortable, refreshing feeling.

[Beep! Modification of Host body's heart is complete. Detection of an increase in all body stats. Beginning recalculation of data!]

The sound of the A.I. Chip's voice was heard, and Leylin found the column with his stats being refreshed again!

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 21.1, Agility: 14.4, Vitality: 27.9, Spiritual Force: 85.6, Magic Power: 85 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 99%]

In a moment, a feeling of extreme power spread and seeped into his limbs and bones.

"After modifying my heart, it means that I have achieved a fusion of the deepest level with the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Now, it is replacing my blood! In the future, if I have children, they will automatically inherit this Warlock bloodline!"

Leylin seemed to sigh, and looked at his stats once again.

“Although my strength and agility did not increase by much, my vitality had increased by a large amount, which makes sense! The physical body is a carrier for the mind and spirit. With a rise in spiritual force, it would naturally require an even more sturdy body to support it!”

From Leylin’s perspective, the body was like a glass, and the spiritual force was like the water in it. The bigger the glass was, the more water and thus, spiritual force it could contain. Conversely, no matter how much water there was, it would be useless if the glass was not large enough to hold it. It might even cause the glass to break.

Hence, many official Magi would think up ways to strengthen their body to adjust and balance their powerful spiritual force.

However, what shocked Leylin the most was the rise in his spiritual force and elemental essence conversion.

“Spiritual force actually went up to 85.6, and elemental essence conversion is even more terrifying. It actually rose to 99%! I think even ancient elemental beings would just be at this level... With these results, I can try my hand at advancing to become a rank 2 Warlock!”

Leylin sighed in contentment.

The requirements for a Warlock to advance was largely similar to a Magus, with the only difference being requirements in the bloodline.

Leylin’s current bloodline was directly from the ancient creature, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, so there was definitely no problem at all. The conditions to advance to become a rank 2 Magus was for one’s spiritual force to reach 80, and one’s elemental essence conversion to be above 80%!

These were the basic requirements to be promoted to be a rank 2 Magus.

In terms of spiritual force, many Magi were able to reach it. However, they were often stuck in terms of their elemental essence conversion and were hence unable to proceed further.

There were also ambitious people like Caesar and Decarte who had reached the requirements to advance but had not done so. They wanted to push their elemental essence conversion to above 90% to build a stronger foundation and pave the way for their future!

Not only had Leylin currently exceeded the basic requirements in spiritual force, but his elemental essence conversion had even reached the shocking number of 99%!

Besides ancient elemental beings that were made of elemental particles, there was nothing that could have a higher percentage than this.

Leylin was a being made of flesh and blood, rather than elemental particles. To be able to reach 99% was basically reaching the extremes of his limits.

He was extremely clear about this and did not look to increase it any further.

“With the bonus from my bloodline, all of my body’s stats far exceed that of a regular Magus. Now, my elemental essence conversion has even reached 99%. Even in the entire south coast, I doubt that there’s a rank 1 Magus who’s stronger than me.”

Leylin was extremely clear of his ranking.

Chapter 259: Preparation

Compared to the regular Magi who did not have high-grade meditation techniques and were unsure of their futures, Leylin knew exactly what he was going to do.

Over a long period of time, regular Magi would need to search for or create a rank 2 spell that was compatible with the spell model they had chosen when they had become a rank 1 Magus and then try to solidify their sea of consciousness within it. This would, of course, all be done after their spiritual force and elemental essence conversion had achieved a certain level.

This was all a matter of luck. Even if one were able to succeed by chance, the two spell models could result in disharmony and wear and tear, having an adverse effect on the power of a rank 2 Magus.

But Leylin was different. He had a high-grade meditation technique! Every time he advanced, he would generate an innate spell that completely suited his body! What he needed to do now was raise the level of his meditation technique, and train till Kemoyin's Pupil went up to another level. Only then would he be able to be promoted to a rank 2 Warlock!

For Magi who trained in high-grade meditation techniques, as long as they reached a certain level, the technique would automatically push and help a Magus to advance at a rate far faster than regular Magi.

"I've already reached the basic requirements for Kemoyin's Pupil to advance to the second level! Next, I'll have to gather spiritual force and produce immense energy to make a breakthrough in Kemoyin's Pupil."

Information regarding breaking through the second level of Kemoyin's Pupil flashed by Leylin's eyes.

"This is a process that requires constant accumulation! With my current condition, this would need around two or three years. However, with some special methods, such as burning up large amounts of spiritual force, for instance, the process can be quickened."

Leylin serenely closed his eyes, seeming to emit dangerous rays of light...

Time passed slowly, and it was soon night.

The sky was filled with clouds blocking the moon and they had no intentions of moving. In the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, it was immersed in darkness.

Magical lights began to light up, connecting together like pearls as they brought light to the Four Seasons Garden headquarters.

However, even if they used large amounts of light magic, in a huge area like that the headquarters occupied, there would still be much darkness and many shadows.

Beside a flower terrace, dark figures emerged from the shadows, one after another.

All of these figures were wearing black robes with traces of blood on them. The smell of blood on their bodies was so strong that it did not seem like it could dissipate, and their eyes showed no sense of human emotion; all there was a pure desire to kill and vent!

"How is this? It's the Magi Army from the dark Magi's headquarters. They're not that different from the light Magi, are they?"

Leylin and Caesar stood aside. This time, they had used their authority to transfer the patrolling Magi away, personally removed the defense mechanism here, and welcomed these people.

Caesar grinned at Leylin.

"They're not bad, and are perhaps a lot stronger..." Leylin sucked in a huge breath.

Due to the harsh environments they lived in, they had to have great battling prowess. In general, being able to live until now was only possible with their own two hands.

The army trained by the light Magi had also gone through arduous and bloody battles, but the only way in which they surpassed the dark Magi army was in their cooperation. In terms of individual battle power, they

could not compare.

“It’s been already two days since the previous attack. We only have three more days before the investigation team from headquarters arrive! It’ll be troublesome when that happens...”

Caesar’s expression revealed his discontent. “How about Wade? Haven’t you taken care of him yet?”

“He’s concealed himself quite well. The people I sent to search for him haven’t discovered anything yet!” Leylin waved his arms, looking helpless.

“He won’t be able to flee out of the secret plane anyway, so he won’t leak any information. Two days later, it won’t matter even if he meets up with the investigation team!”

“Let’s hope so!” Caesar stared coldly at Leylin for a long while and then forced the words out of his mouth.

He had guessed that Leylin was not doing this work himself and had intentionally let Wade off. However, as long as Wade was not able to spread any information, it would only be a small matter. In terms of general benefits, as long as there were limitations from the contract with Trial’s Eye, Caesar believed Leylin wouldn’t do anything that harmed their interests.

After all, if this operation failed, it was impossible for Leylin to return to Four Seasons Garden. Instead, he’d become a fugitive!

“Isn’t it too conspicuous to bring over all these people? What’s going to happen if we get found out?”

Leylin looked at the line of dark Magi trailing behind Caesar and asked, a little worried.

The light Magi from headquarters were no fools. With the Lightning Corps around, every single action either he or Caesar took was susceptible to scrutiny, and if they were discovered to have dealings with dark Magi, they would immediately be stared closely at.

“There’s no other choice; we have no more time. In at most three days,

or two days at best, we need to bring in enough people and transfer the authority to control the defense system to them!”

Caesar’s face was stern, “I can temporarily arrange for them to stay in a few abandoned laboratories and warehouses. They’re going to leave in a day or two anyway, so we don’t even need to prepare a lot of food or water...”

“Hide in the western warehouse! I’ve already minimized the patrolling officers and sentries there. Here’s the map of the changing of the guards and the warning systems.”

Caesar instructed the dark Magi behind him, and passed a piece of parchment paper to him.

The leader took it silently, and with a fling of his robes he turned into black smoke and left with the dark Magi behind him.

The entire process was extremely quiet, displaying the results of the dark Magi’s training.

Leylin was extremely aware that during the past few days, Caesar and himself had abused their own authority and brought several batches of dark Magi into the headquarters of Four Seasons Garden.

Due to the chaos after the attack, as well as he and Caesar helping to cover up this plan, not a single Magus had discovered that something was amiss.

By the time the authority to command the formation genie was transferred, the dark Magi would cooperate with those in the external world. Even if all the official Magi within the secret plane now, as well as the two large groups from the Lightning Corps were gathered, they would still be powerless!

Leylin sighed deeply and closed his eyes. He could already imagine the confusion and puzzlement on these Magi as they died.

“Tomorrow, you’ll come with me to unseal the core body of consciousness of the secret plane! After the attack, Desmond added another seal and without enough authority, the formation genie will fight

back!”

Caesar’s face was grim.

In the contest to seize the gate, what was most important was obtaining the core body of consciousness belonging to the gate into the secret plane. As long as this was in their possession, they could control the platinum gate outside and prevent light Magi from the external world from entering.

It could be said that the key to seizing control of the secret plane was the core body of consciousness.

After Desmond had reinforced the sealing spell formation, just Leylin’s or Caesar’s authority was not enough to undo the spell formation and retrieve the body of consciousness. Only if they worked together would they have enough power to do so.

This was why Caesar was so tolerant of Leylin.

“Don’t worry! This has already been stated clearly in the contract, so I can’t go back on my word.”

Leylin turned to look at Caesar.

“What’s more important is what I requested of you! How has the preparation for that been coming along?”

When he had made a contract with the rank 2 dark Magi that the Trial’s Eye had bore witness to, Leylin was also able to gain some benefits.

He had requested for a large amount of resources that were only available to certain dark Magi regions, high-grade academic knowledge, research information and even a promise that allowed him to enter Lighthouse of the Night!

Lighthouse of the Night!

That was the holy land for dark Magi. It had a rank 3 dark Magus in charge, and its reputation was spread everywhere. The original leader had even used his own strength and defeated, with a single blow, the combined attack from the director of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Siley and a few

other rank 2 Magi!

Leylin's request was a little difficult for the rank 2 dark Magus to handle at first.

Though he was a delegate from the Dark Magi Alliance, recommending someone so that they could enter Lighthouse of the Night also required him using a lot of resources and favours.

As for materials, knowledge and the like, it was another huge issue.

However, Leylin had absolutely insisted on this, and the dark Magus had no choice but to include this in the contract.

The moment he thought of this, Caesar's expression became dark and his chest heaved up and down fiercely. Even his breathing had become harsh.

"Don't worry! The Black Blood Ores, Bone Flowers and other resources have already been sent to your room. As for the promise for you to enter the Lighthouse of the Night, you'll get it after we succeed here."

"Very well!" Leylin nodded, and then disappeared into the darkness.

Pak! Behind him, there was the sound of something shattering.

.....

Two days later, the day before the investigation team arrived.

It was noon, and the blazing heat shined hard upon the ground, resulting in a heatwave.

Four Seasons Garden's headquarters in the Eternal River Plain's secret plane had already regained its vitality. Many light Magi were entering and leaving the Merit Exchange Centre as they completed all sorts of tasks.

The Magi from the outside with neutral stances went out to gather all sorts of resources within the secret plane before coming to the exchange point set up by the Four Seasons Garden and traded them for magic crystals to purchase useful potions and high-grade information.

Everything seemed to be in order.

With Caesar and Leylin heading this work, the headquarters had already returned to its previous prosperity and stability. Of course, this was just on the surface.

Within the shadows, at least fifty dark Magi had been smuggled in, and a few important places with defense spell formations were taken over by dark Magi.

The busy light Magi had absolutely no idea that the headquarters of the secret plane here had already changed ownership.

“How is it? How does it feel to see the headquarters that you built up yourself be destroyed by your own hand?”

A voice travelled from behind Leylin.

Leylin expressionlessly turned, and answered Caesar who approached, “I feel nothing!”

Chapter 260: Another Round

After speaking, Leylin turned to gaze at the bustling market.

Life and death happened all the time, much like the way flowers bloomed and withered away. Everything was being transformed in front of his eyes.

“Nothing in the world can escape the decay of time! This is why I’m so set on seeking eternity, which is something I live by!”

Leylin sighed deeply in his heart.

The rebuilding of this market was not entirely without reason. At the very least, Leylin had gained quite of a bit of experience from managing it. In the future, if he ever needed to take charge of an area where Magi gathered, he knew he could do it much better than before.

Seeing Leylin expression, Caesar snickered inside without showing anything on his face, “Then let us begin as quickly as possible! Someone will move the core body of consciousness today!”

“Alright! Are we finally going to make a move?”

Anticipation flashed in Leylin’s eyes, as they walked side by side as they left.

.....

Caliste wore the robes unique to Magi from Four Seasons Garden, and ambled over to the region he was in charge of.

Along the way, acolytes stood by the road and bowed to him. He walked past them expressionlessly, and occasionally nodded aloofly.

“This is it! Respect! Reverence! This is what it feels like to be an official Magus...”

As someone who had just been promoted to be an official Magus, Caliste had yet to adjust to this situation.

Such treatment that was reserved for those who were more powerful than the regular human had him feel a little intoxicated.

However, all these thoughts vanished after seeing the large hole beside the fort.

At the outer layer of the headquarters of Four Seasons Garden, there was a huge hole.

This was the masterpiece done by the dark Magi in their previous attack. Leylin and Caesar had ordered for people to mend this, but it had yet to return to its original state.

As he looked at the light Magi and acolytes who were carrying out construction work, Caliste felt as if all the wounds had been re-opened as they sniggered at him.

This huge wound was a disgrace to all the Magi of Four Seasons Garden!

“Those darned dark Magi! One day, I, Caliste, shall...” Caliste’s complaints and curses suddenly stopped as he recalled the insane power the dark Magi had displayed.

For a Magus like him who had grown up in a safe environment, every movement from the dark Magi, which were filled with bloodthirstiness and violence, made him feel a little stifled.

In this condition, even those who were of the same rank might lose quite badly.

“If they attack once again, will I be able to do anything?” Caliste was filled with self-doubt. After all, it was his luck that had allowed him to survive while other, more powerful, light Magi had died in battle!

“Hah... I don’t care anymore! There’s still the Lightning Corps, large-scale defense, and amplification spell formations here, as well Lord Caesar and Lord Leylin! With this level of power, there’s definitely no problem for us to hang on for one or two more days. Besides, the people from the headquarters are going to arrive tomorrow!”

Caliste exhaled slowly.

Boom!

At this moment, green flames suddenly streaked across the sky like a

meteor, a tail of light following behind it.

Xiu! Accompanying the flames was the piercing sound of friction with the air.

Pak! Green flames rumbled as they exploded in the middle of the sky, forming the image of a green skull!

“This is... the symbol of the dark Magi...” Caliste’s voice became hoarse, his expression displaying his disbelief.

“Enemy attack!”

The patrolling Magi bellowed, and layers of black magical beasts charged forth like a tide.

“The biochemical army of the dark Magi! This is an army made out of cannon fodder, formed due to the radiation and poisoning of beasts in the secret plane! The real enemy is still behind. Activate the defense formation and notify the two Lords!”

Atop the watchtower, a Magus who seemed to be the leader of a team icily roared immediately.

“Activate the Heavenly Fire spell formation! Magi on the ground are to prepare wind spells and fire rain scrolls!”

This little leader was obviously the commander of a zone, and he immediately began to seek permission from the formation genie with his spiritual force.

“Formation genie! Activate the energy amplification spell formation again! The targets are all Magi of Four Seasons Garden!”

The energy amplification spell formation was a large-scale spell formation that would cover the entire area of the headquarters at the secret plane. It could cause Magi who were semi-converted and below to have their power to increase by 10%.

“Received request, verifying authority!”

He could hear the emotionless voice of the formation genie in his mind.

“Verification failed! Spell formation will not be activated!” However, the formation genie’s next words seemed to throw him down into the abyss.

“What? It didn’t go through?”

The commander’s face changed and he fiercely smashed the stone railing beside him. Pak! A huge chunk of green stone fell.

“It happened again! There’s a traitor!”

He turned his head, glancing in the direction of Reynold’s office. “Is it Caesar? Leylin? Or both of them?”

Magi were not fools in general. The failure to activate the formation genie could be said to be a fluke the previous time, but it had happened again. The scope of people he suspected had been made smaller, and no amount of concealing would work.

Caesar and Leylin did not bother doing that either, as they were already prepared to leave Four Seasons Garden.

“Leader, what do we do?” The female Magus behind him asked anxiously.

“Let’s go!” This Magus looked at the beast horde that was going to arrive soon, and then the platinum gate of the secret plane a distance away. He gritted his teeth and made his choice.

“The situation now is extremely dangerous, and there are also traitors here! The casualties here will definitely be more than the previous time. If you want to survive, leave with me! Immediately! Now!” The leader quickly explained.

He was deemed to be very trustworthy in this team, and a few members chose to leave with him. The rest stayed behind.

At this point, those who chose to stay behind were completely loyal to Four Seasons Garden.

The expression on this commander’s face changed, becoming icy as he led his team members and broke away from the beast wave.

Before leaving, he turned back to look at Four Seasons Garden’s

defensive line.

Though the ranged spell formation of the formation genie could not be activated, there were still a lot of defense Magi who chose to stay behind. Hailstones, storms, flashes of lightning and thunder, and fire raining from the sky could be seen on the defensive line.

“I’m sorry!” This leader apologised in his heart and immediately turned to leave.

Magi were a bunch of logical and practical people. The team leader was very clear that the enemies were very aggressive in their attacks, and they even had a highly-ranked spy to provide support. The Magi of Four Seasons Garden here would not end up well.

As the defense Magi battled with the army of magical beasts, immense energy waves swept through Four Seasons Garden.

In a second, Four Seasons Garden was in chaos once again.

Wandering Magi with no affiliation thought back to the previous time this happened and quickly chose to leave. Acolytes were as powerless as ants in this situation, and they could only wail in hopelessness.

On top of that, a few Magi also took the opportunity to conduct some illegal activities, and in a short period of time, the sound from quarrels, wails, and on top of that, the roars from magical beasts coupled with the aura of magic traveled throughout the region.

“How terrifying! Oh Four Seasons, did my nightmare reappear?”

“Too terrifying! It’s too terrifying!”

Caliste mumbled away. As a defense Magus of Four Seasons Garden, it was his duty to protect his homeland. However, his legs were becoming jelly and started to shift backwards.

Boom! At this moment, half a body, from which the other half had been ripped off by a beast, fell from the sky. As the corpse dropped, it sprayed a rain of blood that covered his entire face.

“Ah...” Caliste’s facial muscles twitched, and he no longer hesitated to

run in the opposite direction.

While running, his lips moved slightly and a ring of green energy particles appeared, causing his weight to decrease by half.

A layer of dense earth armour also emerged on his body.

“I’m sorry...” While Caliste dashed off wildly, he apologised in his heart...

Boom!

Just when he passed by a building, the building suddenly began to shake violently, and then exploded in flames.

The wave of flames and heat spread out in all four directions, with sparks and rocks flying everywhere. A few acolytes who were nearby turned into ashes instantly in this explosion.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Caliste had his innate defensive spell formation, so he was physically alright. However, a few larger rocks had struck his chest, causing him to pale and fall backwards.

“What happened? How could the dark Magi enter so quickly?”

Confusion was apparent on his face, which would be the last expression that he would ever make.

Tss! A large crimson sword that was still burning with yellow flames pierced through this Magus’ innate defensive spell formation, sticking into the area where his heart was.

“So there was one more official Magus here! I almost let him escape!”

Behind the cold voice, a Magus in black robes appeared before Caliste’s corpse and pulled out the crimson sword!

He gazed at the ruins around him, unexpectedly producing a crazed look of enjoyment, “Kill! Cry! Only after feeling the deepest sense of hopelessness will my Weeping Skeleton Sword be able to exhibit its most formidable power!”

He glanced at the acolytes around him that were completely stunned,

and the sword in his hand began to flame once more, charging into the crowd of Magi.

Corpses that piled as high as mountains, blood that flowed like the sea!

Caesar had brought in many elite dark Magi troops secretly using his authority, situating them at various core areas and had them unleash attacks together!

Immediately, Four Seasons Garden was turned into a sea of flames once more! Dozens of areas went up in green smoke. Dark Magi brazenly slashed and killed as they liked, venting their innermost desires...

In this situation where attacks were coming from both within and outside, Four Seasons Garden was definitely not going to last long.

Chapter 261: Conflict

“How is it? This is the masterpiece we created together!”

In what had originally been Reynold’s office, Caesar used the formation genie’s observation spell formation to survey the situation in the headquarters of Four Seasons Garden within the secret plane. The sea of blood and flames gave rise to a morbid look of pleasure on his face.

“I don’t feel much! Every living being is born, grows, and dies. Such is the law of nature.”

Leylin answered expressionlessly like a preacher.

The reason why he and Caesar were here was naturally to do something of utmost importance—to move the secret plane’s gate’s core body of consciousness!

This process was extremely troublesome, and getting past the defense of the formation genie and sealing spell formation were trivial matters.

A consciousness core was a very delicate and fragile thing that could be obtained from a body. If there was the slightest attack from the external world, it would instantly die. Previously, Caesar had planned on destroying it and had not thought through the process but simply used the most violent methods.

However, it was different now. The person who would hand over the core body of consciousness to the dark Magi needed to ensure its safety. This was an extremely delicate job and there were immense benefits to it. As long as they possessed the core body of consciousness, that meant that they could control the entrance of the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane!

Such a benefit would cause the light Magi association to lose their senses, much less the dark Magi!

“Who’s going to take over? Can you tell me now?”

Leylin stared hard at Caesar.

Within the office were a huge crowd of dark Magi.

The group of commanders in charge of the core in the secret plane had been completely infiltrated and taken over by dark Magi! This was simply hilarious.

However, no light Magus inside could laugh at the situation because they had all become corpses in the corridor outside.

The dark Magi gave off the feeling of people who had gone through specialised military training, they were swift and decisive in their actions. The smell of blood was so dense on their bodies that it could not dissipate.

These were the elites of the dark Magi! Their battle power was far from what an ordinary Magus could compare to. Even the troops from the Lightning Corps were a level lower than them!

Just standing there gave off a very intimidating pressure.

Compared to them, Leylin only had Number 2 and Number 3 beside him, looking rather pathetic in strength.

“You should be quite familiar with who it is...”

Caesar laughed, seeming to be rejoicing in Leylin’s misfortune.

“It’s me!” A hoarse voice sounded in the room.

Dark green flames spread in the air, eventually turning into a door.

A tall and slender Magus with green eyes in a black robe emerged from the door of flames.

Silver solidified spiritual force particles were hovering around his body. The waves from the spiritual force were like ocean waves spreading across the area.

“Lord Cabourn!” The surrounding Magi quickly bowed.

This rank 2 dark Magus was the one that Leylin had seen previously. He was also the person that backed Thousand Meddling Hands; Caesar and Giant’s biological father!

“Keke! We meet again young man!”

The dark green flames in Cabourn’s eyes was extremely vigorous, and he

was measuring Leylin up with what seemed to be bad intentions.

“So it’s Lord Cabourn!” Leylin’s expression did not change and he gave a small bow. Inside, however, he was beginning to get nervous, and worked even harder at using the spiritual force compression method from the old witch.

Fortunately, the rank 2 dark Magus fixed his attention on the core body of consciousness.

Cabourn approached the place where the seal had once been. The seal had already been mostly removed by Leylin and Caesar, and this rank 2 Magus would be able to easily dispel the rest.

Cabourn lightly tapped on the floorboard with his shoes. Two sides of the desk split open, revealing the sealing formation below.

At this point, the spell formation had mostly been destroyed and the runes of the spell were dim.

At the centre of the spell formation that had split open, a translucent depression emerged.

White gold flames the size of a pea were burning steadily.

“Is this the core body of consciousness of the platinum gate?” Though these white gold flames were tiny and looked ready to go out, Leylin was able to sense the immense energy and solidified spiritual force within.

This feeling was like lava that had yet to explode. It was like the sea during its tranquil stage, deep and enigmatic, enormous beyond belief!

“This is it! This is it!”

The rank 2 Magus, Cabourn, mumbled in a bewitched manner.

Next, he turned to the Magi present. “What happens next is that I’ll take over here until our people completely occupy this place!”

The core body of consciousness of the gate of the secret plane was basically like a key to the gate. It was extremely important. In order to prevent any accidents or unexpected situations, the rank 2 dark Magus was going to take the core far away or destroy it right away.

“Black Blood Corps! You are to guard the corridor that leads to this area. Unless I order you to do otherwise, do not let anyone enter!”

Cabourn immediately began to arrange defensive duties.

After giving the dark Magi in the room their orders, the rank 2 dark Magus switched his attention to Leylin, eyes unable to conceal his desire to toy around with him. It looked like he was eyeing a white mouse inside a laboratory.

“Magus Leylin! The Dark Magi Alliance has seen your efforts. I wonder if I can get you to do a little more?”

Caesar, who was standing behind Cabourn, began to snicker. From his point of view, Leylin now held no value, and anyone controlled by his father in this situation would not have a good ending.

“What is it?” Leylin’s face did not change.

“Please die!”

Cabourn grinned strangely, and suddenly made his move! Silver solidified spiritual force unhesitatingly swept through the office, books and bookshelves flying everywhere and turning into dust under the silver light.

The rank 2 Magus, Cabourn, was actually not at all afraid of the contract with the Trial’s Eye and had brazenly raised his hand against Leylin!

Silver solidified spiritual force transformed into strange, huge bony claws, and bright red blood seemed to drip from the joints!

“You dare threaten me! A rank 1 Magus like you actually dared to threaten me, Cabourn! You even treated Caesar that way! I want to extract your spirit and roast it under White Bone flames for ten thousand years...”

Cabourn roared.

Shua!

Leylin’s expression was solemn as he faced a rank 2 Magus who was going all out against him and in peak condition.

A layer of dense black scales emerged on his body. At the same time, the defensive layer from the Fallen Star Pendant formed on his body, turning into a phantom set of armour. Leylin immediately entered his strongest defensive state.

Weng! Brownish-yellow gravitational spell formation appeared in front of his chest, instantly covering an area of over a hundred meters.

A gravitational power of more than 40 times stronger than normal descended.

As if affected by gravity, the strange white bone claws sunk down a little, their speed also slowing.

“Latent Fireball!” Leylin rapidly chanted incantations, and a huge black fireball emerged, constantly expanding in midair. Two blood-red eyeballs were formed, as well as a blazing tongue that emerged from its mouth.

A huge serpent blazing with black flames hissed as it went forward, mercilessly colliding with the strange white claws.

Rumble!

An immense explosion swept through the office.

“You...” Cabourn was alarmed and immediately swung his arms. A black defensive layer immediately protected the area where the core body of consciousness was.

Next, black and silver-white energy began to extend and wreak havoc in the surroundings.

First the floorboards, then the window ledges, roof...

A giant black mushroom cloud ascended at the place where the two spells had collided and constantly became larger, eventually turning into a large round shape that devoured everything.

The tremendous explosion even caused the battle going on not far away to be silenced. The dark Magi who were manipulating the magical beasts and the light Magi who were defending to the death had all halted, fearfully glancing at the scene at the centre of the headquarters.

By the time everything quietened down, what had been Reynold's office had been levelled, and the buildings nearby had all disappeared.

Even a few layers of the ground had been shaved off.

The dark Magi who Cabourn had sent to stand guard had all been hit and they were lying around, fresh blood and broken limbs all over the place. If not for their immense power and formidable innate defensive spells, they would most likely be corpses instead of being heavily injured!

Caesar, who was behind Cabourn, was in an even worse state. He had been swept by the immense energy to over a hundred metres away, buried in a pile of ruins. It was unknown whether he was still alive or dead.

Leylin staggered backwards, paling.

Behind him, Number 2 and Number 3 had lost their robes, revealing their firm muscles and the runes branded onto their bodies.

"You..."

Cabourn raised a bony finger and pointed it at Leylin, his expression full of disbelief.

Though he had split his attention to taking care of the core body of consciousness, he had spent 70 – 80% of his power on the white bony claws, and Leylin had actually been able to take it on!

Compared to a few days ago, he was now able to exhibit his full strength! He had not held back at all!

To think that this level of attack had been taken on by Leylin. Had he reached the level of a rank 2 Magus?

Cabourn was speechless.

"Looks like my guess was right! You still have a way to evade the contract made with the Trial's Eye!"

At one side, Leylin fell back and stared hard at Cabourn.

For him, there was only one Magus, Cabourn, who would be able to threaten him. Everyone else could be disregarded.

Though Leylin and Cabourn had signed the contract with the Trial's Eye, how could he, who liked to engage in wordplay, actually believe in it?

Chapter 262: To Inform

It wasn't as if there was no way to undo the contract with the Trial's Eye. The last time, Thousand Meddling Hands had given Leylin the solution of the Nefarious Filthbird feathers which had destroyed one side of the contract.

What made Leylin more uneasy was that this liquid had come from the hands of Cabourn, this rank 2 Magus!

Though it was impossible to find another solution of the Nefarious Filthbird feathers, for Magi like them, they did have ways to achieve a similar effect.

After all, the people behind Thousand Meddling Hands was the Dark Magi Alliance, which had at least a rank 3 dark Magus in charge!

If Leylin actually believed in that contract, then he must be a fool!

Caesar in front of him was a very good example! He was a Magus of Four Seasons Garden that was highly regarded. The force of the contract on him must be even stricter, and yet he had been able to betray Four Seasons Garden without the slightest hesitation. He must have used some method to break away from the effect of the contract.

Hence, though they had stated in the contract that they would not attack each other, Leylin did not take this to heart.

Just as expected, the rank 2 Magus had outrageously attacked him after obtaining what he'd wanted, not caring about the effects of the contract. This meant that he had destroyed his side of the contract.

Fortunately, Leylin had been wary of this rank 2 Magus from the start and been able to improve his strength after modifying his heart. Only then was he able to take on the attack.

"How... How were you able to retaliate? How are you able to break away from the influence of the contract?"

Cabourn first disregarded his shock at Leylin's strength, and first asked this question.

The contract with the Trial's Eye was not something to be made light of, otherwise it would not be used so extensively.

Besides its mortal enemy the Nefarious Filthbird, there were few other ways to deal with this sort of contract.

Even he himself needed guidance and help from the rank 3 Magus in charge of the Dark Magi Alliance and paid a large price to eliminate the limitations of the contract on his end.

The meaning of 'eliminating the limitations of the contract on his end' was to remove the effect of the Trial's Eye on him, while Leylin would still be bound by the contract.

In other words, he could attack Leylin, but Leylin would not be able to strike back. The moment he did, the Trial's Eye would punish him!

It was because of this that he had been so fearless and brazen in wanting to eliminate this untrustworthy factor first!

However, the powerful effects of Trial's Eye did not work on Leylin. How could this not surprise him?

"Could it be that Leylin also trained in some magic that is similar to 'Three Souls in a Body'?" Cabourn was beginning to realise that he could not fathom this young Magus.

His son, Caesar, had used the special effects of Three Souls in a Body that allowed Caesar to violate the contract with Four Seasons Garden. He had died once, and after the effects of Trial's Eye had completely disappeared, he had come back to life and thus evaded the power of the contract.

Cabourn did not think Leylin had any rank 3 Magus aiding him, and the only other way for this situation to happen was that he trained in some ancient techniques!

"Fools!"

Cabourn glanced around coldly, and then coldly hummed. Due to the immense explosion, they had exposed themselves entirely to the light

Magi. There were already a few wandering light Magi that wanted to investigate and find out what was happening.

Their surroundings had turned into barren land, and only the place sealing the core body of consciousness had a layer of black energy guarding it.

A few Magi wearing the uniform of the Lightning Corps had quickly made their way here. The leader was someone Leylin was extremely familiar with. It was the vice-leader that Desmond had left behind, who was a formidable peak rank 1 Magus.

“The Lightning Corps? What an eyesore!”

Cabourn let out a roar as if he had some animosity towards them, and he moved his arms forward, “Withering Breath!”

A ring of silver-gray stream was generated between his hands, and like a tornado violently revolved towards the Lightning Corps.

This stream seemed to have an immense corrosive effect and produced long, deep tracks on the ground. In an instant, it arrived before these Magi.

Tss tss!

The stream charged towards a Lightning Corps Magus. With a strange expression on his face, he suddenly began to wither.

In the blink of an eye, this powerful Magus had turned into a dried up corpse and collapsed to the ground.

“Keke!” Cabourn laughed in a way that sent shivers down one’s spine, and the silver-grey tornado killed the Magi one by one. It then pounced towards the face of the vice-leader, who was struck with hopelessness.

“The rank 2 Magus, Deathbringer Cabourn! Lightning’s Fury!”

The vice-leader of the Lightning Corps obviously recognised Cabourn and roared, raised his metal arm and struck towards the tornado!

With his movement, two large balls of lightning appeared in front of his fists.

The huge lightning fists brought with it thunder, flames, and inexhaustible fury, and hissed as it pounced towards the silver-gray tornado in the air.

Unexpectedly, the two lightning fists charged into the tornado and somehow completely disappeared without even having produced a sound.

“Pu!” The vice-leader paled and coughed out black-red blood that emitted some grey gas.

“Keke! Ever since I suffered a loss the previous time, did you think I wouldn’t research your lightning magic?”

Cabourn could not stop with his strange laughter, and the huge tornado continued to howl as it sucked this man in.

Woo woo...

The tornado constantly revolved where it was, and in a few seconds, dissipated, revealing the scene within.

Pak! A spotlessly white skeleton fell the moment the tornado disappeared, which cracked in many places before turning into powder.

What had been the vice team-leader had had his flesh and blood stripped from him. Even the life force in his bones had not been let off.

Cabourn was able to take care of the Lightning Corps in a single blow. Such fearsome power intimidated the light Magi nearby, and the Magi of Four Seasons Garden unhesitatingly turned to leave quickly.

Though they were loyal to Four Seasons Garden, they were no fools! A person able to kill a peak rank 1 Magus had to have reached the level of a rank 2 Magus! If they went up against this sort of Magus, then they were simply committing suicide!

Cabourn nodded in satisfaction and turned to look at Leylin.

“I’ve taken care of the hindrance. Now it’s time for us to start again...”

Leylin had been standing quietly while Cabourn had attacked and slaughtered the members of the Lightning Corps. Nobody had an idea of what he was thinking about.

“It’s time!” All of a sudden, Leylin exclaimed quietly.

“What time is it?” Cabourn suddenly felt cold, having a bad premonition.

Weng Weng...

The sound of something vibrating emerged, and the metal gate to the secret plane across the center of Four Seasons Garden began to buzz.

The Magi were no strangers to this situation. This had happened just once before, and this was when a rank 2 Magus had brought in a whole army of Magi through the gate of the secret plane!

Tssss!

Blue electric currents swept along the metallic gate. What had been a cloudless blue sky suddenly dimmed, and dark clouds appeared.

A pair of large hands formed out of lightning charged in through the gate and swept through the dark Magi around.

In an instant, the dark Magi who had been brazenly plundering and looting turned into ash with shock still apparent on their faces.

What followed the large hands was a blonde, burly man with a lightning symbol on his forehead that gave off eye-catching rays.

“Desmund!” Cabourn gritted his teeth as he forced out this name.

Next, he gave Leylin a withering look, “Did you do this?”

Within the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, the only person who was so clear about their plan and was able to communicate with the external world was Leylin!

What Cabourn just could not understand was how this would benefit Leylin.

What he had done was enough for the Light Magi Alliance to kill him hundreds of times. Even if he disclosed this information, he would still not be let off lightly.

In addition, Leylin had offended both the dark and light Magi, so there was no way he would be in a good situation.

However, Cabourn did not have any time to think about this. Desmond looked at the scene around them, shocked, and blue rays of light floated from the bodies of what had been the Lightning Corps, launching into the mark at Desmond's forehead.

This burly man was immediately overcome by fury.

"Cabourn, you despicable maggot! A cowardly fool that only knows to run! I'll definitely twist off your head and trample it for ten thousand years at my parliament hall!"

Desmond roared and covered himself in blue lightning.

Ka-cha!

A tremendous lightning bolt split open the heavens and, in a straight line, landed on Desmond's hand, turning it into a weapon that looked like a pike.

Xiu! Desmond's figure streaked across the sky and appeared before Cabourn.

"Repulsive!"

Cabourn's eyelids blinked rapidly, and two lines of silver-gray tornados shot out from his hands.

Large tornados thundered and combined into a larger tornado that wrapped him within.

Like a lightning god, Desmond charged into the midst of the tornado, and one could vaguely see two figures wandering within.

The violent tornado floundered around at will, and any Magus which came into contact with it instantly turned into a withered corpse or was burnt to ashes by stray lightning bolts.

"They're finally gone!"

Leylin glanced at the two rank 2 Magi that were fighting and revealed a smile of relief.

Though he had already modified his heart and was indefinitely closer to

the world of a rank 2 Magus and could be said to be the strongest rank 1 Magus in history, he was still a rank 1 Magus! There was still a huge divide behind him and a rank 2 Magus.

Though he had been able to take on an attack from Cabourn, but if they were to continue battling, he was only confident in his abilities to escape.

This was something that was simply unacceptable!

Chapter 263: Activation

“Though there were a few issues, everything is mostly going to plan!”

With a smile about his face, he walked towards the sealing spell formation that Cabourn was protecting.

“Leave this place!”

All of a sudden, a familiar voice travelled to his ears.

The instant he heard this voice, ten black figures appeared and surrounded Leylin.

Leylin was very familiar with the leader. It was Giant of the Thousand Meddling Hands! His legs had been regenerated, and the mist about him was denser than ever before.

Beside him, Caesar had been rescued and was full of dust. He looked to be in a sorry state, and stared hatefully at Leylin.

“Leylin, you dare betray us! You dare betray the honour of us dark Magi...”

“Stop!” Leylin was a little speechless as he interrupted Giant’s speech. “Aren’t dark Magi a group of creatures that only look up to benefits? Since when was there anything about honour?”

He glanced at Giant, who looked pale, “If you want to seek revenge, tell me! Don’t bother with the pretense!”

Giant paused, his face turning red.

“Yes, I want to seek revenge! What I have here are elite dark Magi whose elemental essence conversions are all over 70%! I admit that you’re strong, but as long as you’re not a rank 2 Magus, you definitely won’t be able to survive the attack of so many of us Magi.”

Giant pointed at the dark Magi around him. “You actually dared to kill Little Boy and treat me this way!” His facial muscles began to twitch.

Being defeated so thoroughly by Leylin was the worst kind of humiliation for him.

“Ah... I want to kill you, peel off your skin, and make it my carpet!” Giant roared.

“Your threat is absolutely... Lacking in creativity...”

Leylin heaved a tiny sigh. Even though he was encircled by so many dark Magi, he still had the mood to scan his eyes over the situation in the Four Seasons Garden.

Even Number 2 and Number 3 behind him seemed to be influenced by him, and were not the slightest bit worried.

With the addition of the Lightning Corps, the complete defeat of Four Seasons Garden’s end seemed to less certain. The dark and light Magi had now broken into countless smaller groups and were battling.

In the heart of it all was the large tornado, within which Desmond and Cabourn were fighting.

The tyrannical tornado turned everything, whether it was Magi or buildings, into powder in an instant!

At the heart of the tornado, two figures could be seen rapidly exchanging blows.

Lightning currents were scattered everywhere, sometimes penetrating through the tornado and causing large numbers of casualties.

“It’s really chaotic...”

Leylin sighed, seeming to pity Caesar and Giant while he looked at them, “Leave immediately, and I might even let you off!”

“Are you trying to humiliate me?” Caesar and Giant spoke at the same time.

Though they had seen how formidable Leylin was, they did not think that Leylin would be able to survive the joint attack of so many Magi. Naturally, they thought of Leylin’s words as a bluff.

Giant was even more angered, and he waved his arm. “Attack!”

Immediately, all the dark Magi around him attacked. Corrosive curses,

Exhausting Hand, Toxic Clouds, Acid Lightning, Ice Bolts, and all sorts of insidious spells turned into colourful rays of light that hurtled towards Leylin like a wave.

Every single attack was had an offensive power of at least 45 degrees!

This level of attack was something a peak rank 1 Magus would definitely be unable to handle. Without even being able to flee, they would be seriously injured and die under this joint attack.

However, Leylin was different. After the successful modification of his heart and the mixing of his bloodline with the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, he was infinitely close to a rank 2 Magus, despite not yet reaching that point!

It could be said that he was the strongest peak rank 1 Magus in history!

“Shadow Domain!”

In the face of such an attack, Leylin loudly chanted an incantation and made a weird sign with his hands, and then pressed them to the ground.

Weng! A strange ring of black quickly extended everywhere with Leylin in the centre, instantly covering hundreds of meters.

This was a domain-type attack which Leylin had come up with by studying shadows. Though the effect could not compare to true domain-specific magic, its power was still rather similar!

In the Book of Giant Serpent, the great Magus Serholm had once mentioned that Magi of high ranking had a skill that could affect large areas. They were able to control a large territory and suppress the innate skills of any Magus with a lower ability than them, causing the power of lower-leveled Magi within the area to become weakened.

If a Magus was of a high enough ranking, they could even come up with their own laws within the domain!

It could be said that in one's own domain, a highly ranked Magus was basically a godly existence!

Leylin obviously had yet to reach that level. The “Shadow Domain” he

had come up with was just an imitation that didn't even have the effect of suppressing the abilities of Magi within. All it did was amplify his own attacks, but this also represented his ambition!

[Shadow Domain! Rank 1 Area attack effects: Instantly produce a shadow domain of 100m x 100m, within which the host body's agility is increased by 30%, rate of recovery of spiritual force is increased by 10%, and resistance to elements is increased by 10%! Duration: 5 minutes. Consumption: 15 Spiritual force and 15 Magical power!]

In the blink of an eye, darkness consumed the dark Magi beside Leylin.

All types of magical attacks soundlessly vanished after the appearance of the shadow. Not a single wave of energy was produced.

Immediately after, like a fish in water, Leylin seemed to become the devil king of the night. He began to harvest the lives of the Magi within the domain.

The low and horrifying shrieks of exclamation was heard in the darkness.

In just ten or so seconds, the shadows in this area pulled back and returned to Leylin's feet.

The dark Magi who had surrounded him were in a state of shock, their emotions frozen on their faces.

Pu! A stream of air blew past, and a sound was heard.

A Magus in front of Leylin exploded into foam.

Pu! Pu! Pu! Pu!

As if causing some chain reaction, the dark Magi exploded one by one, turning into pulps of human flesh.

Bright red blood mist pervaded this area.

Within the blood mist, there were still two figures that were not dead.

They were the Caesar and Giant, who were parts of a single spirit that had been split into different bodies. They were now full of wounds that

looked like they had been caused by metal slicing against their flesh, blood dying their clothes as they collapsed into an unconscious heap.

Leylin was still not a rank 2 Magus after all, and did not want to attract Cabourn's attention. If Cabourn ever decided on giving up on his current opponent, and decided to cause him trouble, it would be a huge headache for him. Hence, Leylin had chosen to leave them alive.

"Latent fireball!"

Seeing the dark Magi elites having been taken care of in an instant, whether it was the dark or light Magi, nobody dared to provoke Leylin, and they came to a tacit understanding, leaving the area right away. They left this place to Leylin.

Leylin came to the place where Cabourn had set up the black layer, and raised his hand, a black fireball the size of a fist appearing in his palm.

"Go!" Leylin made a tossing motion, and a black fireball streaked through the air, colliding against the layer and beginning to burn.

Drops of black liquid melted on the layer, and were quickly evaporated.

Leylin's control over his spiritual force was now extremely refined. In his hands, the Latent Fireball was able to have an immense destructive force, and even attack while not making any sound and limiting its power.

Po!

The black layer kept vibrating and was eventually unable to endure the attack, cracking into little pieces, and revealing the sealing spell formation within.

Due to the special attention Cabourn, a rank 2 dark Magus had put into protecting it, the area in which the sealing spell formation was perfectly fine despite Leylin's previous attack.

One could even see a circular trace on the floor as the boundaries of the layer broke off.

"The core body of consciousness of the gate to the secret plane!"

Leylin's eyes saw nothing else. He concentrated on the white gold flames

of the core within the sealing spell formation, eyes revealing his enchantment by it.

“Go according to the original plan!” He spoke to Number 2 and Number 3 behind him, and headed into the spell formation.

“Understood, Master!”

Number 2 and Number 3 glanced at each other. In their eyes, one could see a resolute expression and even preparation to die! As slaves bound spiritually to Leylin, even if Leylin wanted them to commit suicide, they would do so without any qualms.

Next, they each produced a crimson, diamond-shaped crystal.

“For the glory of Master!”

Number 2 and Number 3 roared, and shattered the crystals. A crimson screen emerged from the fragments of the crystal, and encased the area encompassed by the spell formation.

These two crimson crystals were actually single-use spell formations. Judging the defensive power of the crimson screen, it could be said that this was very valuable.

“Woo woo...”

Like the howls of a grieving spirit, or perhaps the laments of suffering, the wails of sorrow that came from the spirit sounded throughout the headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden.

Along with the sound, tiny black runes appeared on the buildings around them.

These runes twisted here and there like little tadpoles or stretched out snakes, seeming to be very mysterious and strange.

The runes assembled and eventually formed a large-scale spell formation.

The spell formation had quite a wide range and included basically the entire headquarters. Whether it was the defensive area at the frontlines or the entrance to the secret plane at the back, they were all covered in these

black runes.

Streams of black light constantly combined, and due to the continuous battles, even a few layers of the earth were scraped off. However, these black streams arranged themselves and immediately filled in the craters!

This massive spell formation had been immediately activated!

Chapter 264: Spiritual Force

Crystallisation

Woo woo.....

Along with the sound of wails, milky-white and dull red rays began to appear and shine all around the battlefield.

These spots of light were very bright, with some of them even illuminating a vague human face. The Magi nearby kept crying out in alarm because what they saw within were the faces of their family and friends!

“Spirits! This is a spell formation that specifically targets the spirits of those who died in battle!”

A Magus not far away immediately yelled, “Where have I seen something that can cover such a large area and not destroy anything before...”

These white and red spots seemed to be attracted by an immense force and shot towards the surface of the crimson light screen at the centre of the spell formation.

Tss tss!

The spirits dissolved into the crimson screen the moment they touched it.

The crimson screen did not refuse anything that approached it. Whether it was the spirit of an acolyte or a Magus, whether dark or light Magi, all of these spots of light which represented spirits were absorbed into it.

As the number of spirits that it absorbed increased, the reddish layer became darker until, in the end, it became a dark red large-scale defensive spell formation.

“It targets just spirits! This is magic that the Light Magi Alliance ordered to be made a forbidden technique! It even dares to gather the spirits of Magi! This is simply blasphemous!”

The eyes of a Magus with a snowy-white beard turned red. Just now, he had personally witnessed his lover's spirit being absorbed by that sinister screen. Even without using his brain, it was obvious that Leylin did not have any good intentions in gathering these spirits.

“Destroy it quickly!”

This sinister black spell formation immediately caused the magicians present much fear. Whether dark or light Magi, neither wanted their spirits to be extracted and used by anyone else.

All sorts of magic such as frost arrows, fireballs, mysterious spirit spells and holy magic of the light element struck and exploded against the building that was filled with runes.

Rumble!

Under the joint attack of the Magi, the building was quickly reduced to ashes, but the black runes were like brands deeply etched into the air. Even the residual energy of the battle in the tornado between two rank 2 Magi was not enough to destroy these runes.

“I remember what this is! It's the Large Formation of Ten Thousand Spirits: Hades' Sacrificial Rites!” The Magus who had previously recognised the function of the spell formation yelled again.

“This is a forbidden technique that was considered taboo even in ancient times! It's able to absorb all the spiritual energy from the spirits of the dead within its range. As it has a trace of protection from Hades, before the time limit is up, it will not disappear...”

“I've heard about this spell formation too! Hasn't it been lost though?”

The Magi stopped their attacks and turned their attention to the dark red screen in the centre of Four Seasons Gardens, their eyes displaying their fear.

The huge black spell formation constantly thundered as it absorbed large numbers of spirits. Such a strange sight caused even the magical beings outside to feel a sense of dread.

The battlefield was silent. Whether it was the dark or light Magi or even the rank 2 Magi who were battling shifted their attention to find out what was happening with the crimson screen.

Within the crimson screen.

Leylin gazed at the white-gold flame in his hand and grinned.

“Power!” He spoke.

He had not had any intentions of abiding by the rules of the contract made with the Trial’s Eye. All that he did was for this thing that was now in his hands!

All that talk about a recommendation to enter Lighthouse of the Night was just a smokescreen. Compared to relying on another organisation, how could it be any better than the thrill of freedom?

As for the contract with the Trial’s Eye? That was just a joke in Leylin’s eyes!

Using the solution from the feathers of the nefarious filthy bird, he was easily able to remove traces of the contract from his body.

Though there was only one portion of the solution, Leylin still possessed many Void Hallucination Flowers!

This flower had a very unique property in that with some simple methods it could imitate all sorts of complicated ingredients! It was for this reason that the Void Hallucination Flower was an essential ingredient in ancient potions!

Giant had delivered the solution of the feathers of the Nefarious Filthbird into Leylin’s hands. Leylin had confirmed the authenticity of the item and did not consume it straight away, but had instead used the A.I. Chip to record the details concerning the composition of this solution!

Next, after many rounds of testing and a little help from the A.I. Chip at the atomic level, Leylin successfully made use of the Void Hallucination Flower and simulated the composition of the solution!

What happened next was obvious.

With his authority of seven stars for the formation genie, he had naturally secretly carved the runes for the Large Formation of Ten Thousand Spirits and prepared for today.

The runes and the setting up of the energy points was naturally information that he had gathered from the Book of Giant Serpent.

Based on records regarding Kemoyin's Pupils, Leylin needed to burn up large amounts of spiritual force and stimulate his high-grade meditation technique in order to spur on his own advancement to becoming a rank 2 Warlock.

Rather than accumulating slowly, he could use large amounts of ownerless spiritual force to replace what he required with this method!

Spiritual force was as precious as one's own blood. If one were to burn up large amounts of their own spiritual force, this would definitely result in very dire consequences. And even if one could advance, a long period of time would be needed to recover from the damage.

If he were to use spiritual force from the external world, this would not be a problem! If there was enough spiritual force and it was pure enough, it might even support the Magus and set up a strong foundation for them!

After being made aware of this fact, Leylin immediately fixed his attention on the core body of consciousness.

This core body of consciousness had formed after tens of thousands of years, and had a tremendous amount of spiritual force. However, its intelligence was very weak and was not even comparable to a three-year-old. It was for this reason that it was so easily caught and sealed by Magi.

The spiritual force that would stimulate the meditation technique to power up would require refinement and purification of his own foundations.

Hence, Leylin chose to use the Large Formation of Ten Thousand Spirits in the Book of Giant Serpent, which was a formidable forbidden technique used specifically to accumulate spiritual power.

What this formation needed was a battlefield, and the deaths of many

Magi who were extremely powerful in terms of their spiritual force. Leylin had therefore decided to activate it at this point of time.

In the external world, most of the light and dark Magi had already died. The spirits of these Magi and acolytes, and even magical beasts, had turned into fuel for Leylin's advancement!

"Let's not waste time. Let's begin!"

With a thought from Leylin, milky-white and dark red spiritual spots were like moths flying into flames, pouncing towards the white-gold light in the palm of his hand.

At this moment, Leylin seemed to feel the howls of a confined consciousness at the heart of the white-gold flame.

The spiritual spots were numerous but were heterogeneous. The core body of consciousness had a boundless spiritual force, but had a very weak consciousness.

As these two collided it was like boiling oil meeting water, they created a violent reaction.

With the interference from the Large Formation of Ten Thousand Spirits: Hades' Sacrificial Rites, the script that Leylin had prepared was beginning to put on a good show.

The flames, which had only been the size of a bean, suddenly expanded and burned furiously. Just like that, the spirit spots were razed to ashes.

However, these spots seemed to be boundless. Even though the spots in front of them had been burnt to nothingness, they still did not hesitate to pounce towards the flames. This was especially so for the spiritual spots that belonged to official Magi. They could survive in the flame for a long time, almost extinguishing the white-gold flames.

Eventually, the consciousness of the white-gold flame became increasingly weak. All the impurities in the spiritual spots had disappeared, and the consciousness vanished, causing it to be extremely pure.

A clean, pure, ownerless spiritual force began to be produced from the heart of the flames.

.....

Sometime later, Leylin focused on the silver flames in front of him, his eyes revealed his joy.

This was the crystallised spiritual force that he had refined. It combined the spiritual force that the platinum gate had gathered after many years, with the spiritual force essence from the Magi that had died in battle.

“The effects are even better than I expected! Total amount of spiritual force has increased by 22%.”

Leylin mumbled quietly, and then looked towards the silver flame. There, a white-gold ball of light like a ping pong ball hovered, emitting spiritual waves that Leylin almost did not notice.

However, the spiritual waves seemed to communicate with the silver flames, and there was even an urge to return to within the silver flames.

This was the consciousness that he had separated. After fights with other spirits, it had become very weak and would probably be destroyed with just a blow from Leylin.

However, as long as it was still not destroyed, the crystallised spiritual force flames in Leylin’s possession would never be able to be considered pure.

“My apologies!”

Leylin spoke to the ball of light, and then blew!

Pu! Like a bubble, it popped, and the ball completely broke open and it was on the verge of disappearing in the air.

With the destruction of the core body of consciousness, the crystallisation of the silver flames in Leylin’s hands were transparent, like a totem of flames created using crystal. It produced a very pure feeling.

This was its form after removing its pure consciousness.

[Large amounts of crystallisation of spiritual force. Purity: 100%] The A.I. Chip came up with a conclusion.

“100%?” Leylin shook his head.

He was clear that at this point, he would not be able to identify the impurities in the spiritual force, and it could not be said to be perfect.

The spirit was a wondrous thing. Even the A.I. Chip right now was unable to examine it properly. Though it might not be able to detect a few ingredients, this did not mean that rank 4 or 5 great Magi would not be able to find out.

In the Book of Giant Serpents, there was a warning from the great Magus Serholm. This spiritual force seemed to be very pure, but in actuality, there were still a few spiritual marks left behind and could not be absorbed! Otherwise, the road ahead would be difficult, and might even cause residual effects.

Chapter 265: Self-Destruct Runes

“However I don’t want to absorb it, but to use it as a single-use stimulant to level up the meditation technique!”

Leylin chuckled and reached for the crystal in the heart of the flames.

Weng!

The spiritual force crystal glistened as it turned into a large silvery flame that engulfed Leylin within.

Where the crimson light screen formation was.

The Magi outside would naturally not know what happened in here, but at this moment Leylin destroyed the secret plane’s core body of consciousness!

Weng! Weng! Weng!

The giant metal gate of the Four Seasons Garden headquarters creaked loudly as various runes on it dimmed! Right after, large cracks began to appear on the surface of the gate.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

The noise produced from the giant metal gate was akin to that of ice cubes melting, as chunks of the gate began to melt like lava and rolled to the ground.

Under these circumstances, even the two rank 2 Magi inside the tornado stopped fighting and directed their gaze towards this scene.

Finally, with the faces of the dark and light Magi showing their disbelief, the gate collapsed and produced a large amount of grime and dust!

“The secret plane’s entrance has self-destructed! Damn it! That Leylin must have destroyed the core!”

Cabourn who was in the tornado charged at the crimson light screen formation.

As for Desmond, his eyes gleamed as he remained rooted to the spot, not

planning to stop Cabourn.

At this moment, outside of the crimson light screen formation, Number 2 and Number 3 brandished their metal greatswords, which were even larger than they were. The brands on their body shone resplendently and surrounding them lay the bodies of countless magicians.

All these were magicians who had foolishly rushed forward earlier to stop Leylin from harvesting the spirits from both dark and light faction. However, under the two Branded Swordsmen's teamwork, they were all slain here.

Branded Swordsmen had always been one of the stronger classes in ancient times. This could clearly be seen from the mighty battle prowess stemming from Number 2 and 3.

Regular semi-converted Magi were not their match at all. Even if those Magi were a tad stronger, under the combination of the instantaneous spell casting innate to their bodies and their battle techniques, the Magi were still easily disposed of.

Formidable physical qualities with an expert fighting technique, combined with instantaneous spell casting abilities have granted Number 2 and Number 3 the title of meat grinders on the battlefield. It required at least a peak rank 1 Magus to finish both of them.

However, how rare was a peak rank 1 Magus?

Previously, Leylin had already swept the battlefield clean of the peak rank 1 Magi. Not to mention those dark Magi spies who were now dead, and even Caesar and Giant were severely injured and unconscious. At this moment, Number 2 and Number 3 were unstoppable!

However, no matter how powerful a Branded Swordsman was before they advanced, they weren't a match for rank 2 Magi

With the attack from Cabourn, Number 2 and Number 3 looked at each other with undying loyalty written over their faces.

"For our Master!"

They grunted as the brand and runes on their bodies flashed ten times more powerful than before as they charged to receive Cabourn's attack.

"You're overestimating your abilities!" Cabourn smirked and released two black tornados from his hands.

Sssii!

The tornados which contained a corrosive effect hit the Branded Swordsmen bodies, but it only left several white marks. Their skin was even intact.

"En? What kind of modification is this?" This time, it was Cabourn who was astonished.

However, he no longer had any time. At this moment, Number 2 and Number 3 bodies began to bloat, like two over-inflated balloons, as they came to Cabourn's side.

Boom! Boom!

Two huge explosions sounded.

As a Branded Swordsman, in front of an unbeatable foe, there was always a final move! This was to fully detonate all of the brands on their body to generate a powerful one-time attack!

In theory, this attack was to use the life force of the Branded Swordsman, the energy particles attracted by the runes and even the spirit that would be detonated all at once! A rank 1 Branded Swordsman's self-detonation, which could even be a threat to a rank 2 Magus!

When Leylin made modifications to the Branded Swordsman, he also increased the explosive effect of the detonation.

As this information of the Branded Swordsman's trump card was not known to many, even Cabourn as a rank 2 Magus had never heard of it before. Hence, he had received two such explosive attacks without any suspicions.

Two giant red mushroom clouds formed in the air, whistling through the skies as they engulfed Cabourn completely.

These flaming mushroom clouds even had scarlet flames at their edges. Anything that the flames touched, be it Magi or concrete, would be instantly dissolved.

“What kind of spell is this? The might is infinitely nearing that of a rank 2 spell!”

The eyes of the surroundings Magi twitched as they scrambled away as if having seen a ghost.

Rumble! The splendour of the giant red mushroom cloud displayed its terrifying radiation and might. Several minutes later, the two clouds completely dissipated, revealing a black robed figure within.

“Cough Cough...” Cabourn’s appearance now was terribly miserable. His robes were all tattered and torn like a beggar’s. Especially noteworthy was his left hand which was in an unusual angle with evident traces of burns. It seemed like the effects of the self-detonation of Number 2 and Number 3 were substantial.

“Damn it!” Cabourn was now enraged. After advancing to a rank 2 Magus, when did he ever receive such a large loss like this? All the more so done by two unremarkable looking fellows, how could he be appeased?

Right now, Cabourn was in fits. If not for Number 2 and Number 3’s spirit being destroyed in that explosion, he would have definitely held their souls captive and let them feel the greatest pain and despair.

Bang! Bang!Bang!

At this moment there were some changes coming from the crimson light screen formation again.

The formation continuously shrunk and expanded like that of a heart beating.

On the surface of the light screen, the Hades’ Sacrificial Rites had black patterns inscribed on it, just like veins which bulged.

With the continuous beating of this red heart, an energy so immense and overpowering which made Cabourn feel apprehensive began to form

and grew increasingly bigger.

This aura even caught the attention of Desmond who was merely spectating, as his expression turned solemn.

“A rank 2 aura... That Leylin is advancing into a rank 2 Magus!”

Cabourn’s eyes opened wide, “How is this possible?”

However, he was extremely clear that no matter how Leylin reached this stage with the advancement requirements, he could not let him advance, no matter what it took.

Cabourn retrieved several items from his robes as he chanted an incantation.

Along with the incantation, layers after layers of energy waves emanated from Cabourn’s body.

“It’s a rank 2 spell!”

Several Magi who were looking on at a distance exclaimed in shock. At Cabourn’s level, casting rank 1 spells was almost instantaneous and required no chanting. However, once he was to use ingredients to aid him in spell casting, there was only one possibility! He was going to use a mighty rank 2 spell!

In the south coast, a rank 1 spell model was extremely difficult to acquire. Regular level 3 acolytes had to at least amass contributions points for over 5 years before they could have enough to exchange for a spell model.

If rank 1 spell models were this difficult to acquire, one can only imagine how much rarer a rank 2 spell model was.

Even most rank 2 Magus did not own many rank 2 spell models. Each and every one of the spells were enough to obliterate a small village.

As for now, Cabourn was casting a spell which contained such a might.

As Cabourn chanted, he continuously fused the magic items which he took out and eventually it held the form of a giant lance used by knights. The lance seemed to be metallic with a green sheen on it.

At the same time, malevolent skulls began to emerge from the void and attached themselves to the lance.

“Wailing Lance?” Cabourn even used this rank 2 spell! It seems like he’s really agitated now!”

Desmund who was watching from the sidelines sniggered. He dispersed the golden blue lightning ball on his hands, “It seems like I don’t need to strike anymore!”

Although Cabourn was his enemy, Leylin, who had destroyed the secret plane’s core, was not a good person either. Right now, Leylin was about to be killed by Cabourn, so naturally, Desmond would not stop this.

Furthermore, if Cabourn were to fail, Desmond could then strike after and kill Leylin!

The skulls on the giant green lance wailed loudly, emitting a loud whistling sound as they struck the crimson light screen formation.

Sssii!!

The crimson light screen shuddered as the red and green merged and spread through the skies. The air in the surroundings contorted wildly as energy waves were violently released.

Rumble!

The green and red light began to shrink after stretching to their limits and a mighty explosion erupted as the flames lapped everything in the surroundings.

The surround buildings had previously gone through a large scaled battle and were already damaged. This time, the explosion shattered them to pieces and turned them into a rubble.

The rebuilding efforts that Leylin and Caesar had put in were now completely destroyed by this explosion.

Pu! Pu!

This Hades’ Sacrificial Rites that was harvesting spirits finally succumbed to the pressure and completely shattered. What was left now

was Leylin's final line of defense, the crimson light screen.

The crimson light shuddered and then black cracks began to appear on the surface.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

The light screen shuddered and finally shattered!

The green lance that contained a monstrous might pierced the centre of the light formation.

Under the dazzling light, a barely visible human figure was seen. This figure was wrapped in a silvery flame which very soon was extinguished.

"Crimson Palm!"

The human figure in the centre spoke softly. Immediately, his hands turned into a fresh blood-red colour.

Two burning holographic claws appeared and grabbed the green lance, which created a whistling noise.

As the red flames touched the green light, the green light was extinguished.

Chapter 266: Toxic

Although Wailing Lance was a rank 2 spell, after going through Hades' Sacrificial Rites and the crimson light screen defensive spell formation, it had been weakened, and eventually perished under Leylin's Crimson Palm.

The might of his Crimson Palm caused Cabourn, who was not far away, to turn pale and exclaim, "You've advanced to become a rank 2 Magus!"

Only a rank 2 Magus would be able to withstand his magic so easily.

"Whew..."

Leylin heaved a huge sigh, feeling the transformation completing in his body. And could not help but mumble, "Such formidable strength really makes one feel intoxicated!"

The A.I. Chip had also shown a few notifications.

[Beep! Detected the burning of large amounts of ownerless spiritual force. Kemoyin's Pupil in the process of advancing...] [Host body's high-grade meditation technique, Kemoyin's Pupil, has risen to the second level! Driving the advancement in Host's rank! Host has advanced to become a rank 2 Warlock!] [Rank 2 innate spells have been generated! Modifying Host body's sea of consciousness.] [Beep! Host has advanced to become a rank 2 Warlock! Stats have been substantially increased. Recalculating data...]

Next, the A.I. Chip refreshed and displayed his new stats.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Rank 2 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 21.1, Agility: 14.4, Vitality: 27.9, Spiritual force: 104.3, Magic power: 104 (Magic power is in synchronisation with spiritual force).]

Leylin took note of the large changes within his sea of consciousness.

His red sea of consciousness had now expanded by a huge amount, but the core essence in the middle had experienced the most changes.

Originally, there had been a prismatic crimson crystallisation of his

spiritual force. This was Leylin's foundation as a warlock, and all sorts of complicated runes were carved onto it.

These runes were like little black snakes seemed to be formed from nature, and made up his two rank 1 innate spells!

Currently, within the crystal, another smaller prism-shaped crystal had been produced. It looked exactly like the outer prism except for the size; it looked as if a tinier version of the original crystal had been placed inside of itself.

The only difference was that the runes on the surface of the inner crystal were different from the runes for Leylin's innate spells on the outer crystal. These runes formed even more formidable innate spells.

If one peered at the two crystals from the outside, they would observe that the runes on the outer and inner layer were integrated to create an image of a crimson symbol-looking rune.

This symbol was very mysterious, and seemed to contain some terrifying strength that could communicate with strange entities from the underworld. However, as it was not complete, it could not exhibit its strength.

This was the innate spell that completely suited Leylin, something that was only possible for those who had high-grade meditation techniques. As these spells perfectly complimented him, they would not have any negative effects.

If he were like a regular Magus, the runes and imprint would clash, and the two layers of the core essence would not be able to stabilise.

Even if one found a rank 2 spell that suited them well, it would still have a high consumption rate, and they would not be able to fully exhibit the strength of a rank 2 Magus.

However, Leylin did not have to worry about this!

Glancing at the rank 2 Magus, Cabourn—who was a distance away—Leylin sucked in a deep breath and looked at the rank 2 innate spell that Kemoyin's Pupil had generated.

“Toxic Bile!”

This was the name of the rank 2 spell that Kemoyin’s Pupil had formed. After sensing the information emitted from the crystal in his sea of consciousness, Leylin was left a little speechless.

“Looks like it’s another ability from the modification of the body! This probably has to do with awakening the poisonous nature of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent.”

Every time a high-grade meditation technique advanced by another level, it would generate an innate spell for the Magus. However, the Magus would have no choice in this method, and likewise, Leylin had no choice but to accept it. However, the innate spells produced by these high-grade meditation techniques were extremely powerful and would not leave Leylin disappointed.

At this point, the A.I. Chip had finished organising all the information regarding Toxic Bile, and displayed it in numerical form.

[Toxic Bile, rank 2 spell. The ancient Giant Kemoyin Serpent possessed terrifying toxic abilities, and its mature form could even corrode the void. Through modification of their bodies and bloodline, ancient Warlocks were able to transplant this ability into their own bodies. Prerequisites: Modification of heart to that of Giant Kemoyin Serpent to 100%. Effect: Through neurotoxins let out of any part of the body, carry out an area of effect attack that attacks all living beings! Consumption: 10 spiritual force, 10 magic power.]

As a rank 2 Magus, the consumption of his spiritual force and magical power were simply both to a degree of 10. This was obviously because it was an innate spell. In addition, Leylin had needed to modify his heart, and had cultivated his body to be able to use this power, causing him to be even more expectant for the power of this rank 2 spell.

“I’ll use you as a guinea pig!”

Leylin glanced at Cabourn, who was not far away, and the spiritual force in his sea of consciousness rushed out, the twice-layered core essence flickering with dim light.

Leylin could feel from deep within that in his body, the purple-red blood of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent was congealing inside his gallbladder. Following the consumption of energy and spiritual force, a mysterious liquid was produced.

This liquid could disseminate to all parts of Leylin's body and be secreted from any pore on his skin.

With a single thought, the poison from the Giant Kemoyin Serpent spread through the air.

Mysteriously enough, when his rank 2 innate spell, Toxic Bile, was used, there was no energy fluctuation, nor was there any special scent or colour. It concealed itself very well.

From the time Leylin broke through to rank 2, to when he used Crimson Palm and let out Toxic Bile, only a few seconds had passed, and even the Magi outside had not been able to react.

Opposite to him, Cabourn looked at Leylin, who had just emerged, the expression on his face complicated. First was regret, then pity, and then fear and the will to kill him!

"Leylin Farlier! To be able to advance to rank 2 before reaching the age of 30 means that you're a genius found only once every thousand years in the south coast! But today, you destroyed the gate to the secret plane and have committed an unforgivable sin! We dark Magi shall judge and punish you!"

Cabourn spoke righteously, finding an excuse for him to kill Leylin.

The more potential Leylin had, the more danger he posed to Cabourn. Currently, Leylin had just advanced to rank 2, so other than his own innate skill, he would surely not have a rank 2 spell. This was the best opportunity to eliminate him!

Desmund, who had originally come to watch the show, now slowly walked behind Leylin upon finding out he had advanced to rank 2. Together with Cabourn, he surrounded Leylin.

After seeing the strange methods Leylin had used to advance, Desmond

had become fearful of this newly advanced rank 2 Magus. He did not mind joining hands with Cabourn if it meant that he could take care of Leylin..

For a moment, the Magi of both factions were extremely coordinated. The two rank 2 Magi surrounded Leylin, while the other dark and light Magi encircled him as well.

“It seems like they aren’t afraid of death!”

Glancing at the official Magi who had encircled him, Leylin was expressionless, though he was sighing inside.

The degree of power of a rank 2 spell was at least 80! An attack of such a level was basically fatal to any rank 1 Magus!

The attack of Toxic Bile was invisible and did not differentiate between enemies and allies. The nearer people were to Leylin, the faster they would die.

Thump! The light Magus who was closest to him collapsed, a strange purplish-black colour appearing on his face.

Thump! Thump! Like a chain reaction, whether it was light or dark Magi, all who were around Leylin turned stiff, and collapsed to the ground.

“What’s happening?” “He...he’s poisoned! Be careful, it’s a toxic attack!” “Use a spell that stops you from breathing or a barrier!”

Tss tss! Large amounts of white gas emitted were emitted, and the bodies of the Magi who had collapsed began to corrode. One could even see the white bones within!

The white bones eventually darkened, and then melted into a black liquid.

The Magi who saw this scene instantly paled, shrieks and yells sounding everywhere.

“Ah...” Yet another miserable shout was heard. A Magus with a thick barrier fell to the ground, his body beginning to rot.

The official Magi near Leylin instantly collapsed and turned into black liquid. There was no time for anyone to rescue or move them!

Such a terrifying effect intimidated the two rank 2 Magi.

“Even a protective layer is useless!”

Blinking rapidly, Cabourn and Desmond flew backwards. Desmond produced large amounts of lightning, cleansing his body over and over again, while Cabourn grew huge green warts that continuously absorbed something.

Hu Hu!

With the passing of time, the poisonous attack increased its range. It started where Leylin was, and then spread to the entirety of the Four Seasons Garden. In the end, even the magical beings in the external world began to collapse in large groups and turn into black liquid, the tart smell of decay spreading everywhere.

Besides the Magi who had quickly retreated from the very beginning, there were no living beings apart from Leylin and the two rank 2 Magi!

This situation surprised even Leylin, who had caused this.

“This... Is akin to the biochemical attacks in my previous world!” For there not to be a single living being within the area of his attack shocked Leylin to no end.

In addition, he knew the method through which his poison was spread. The toxin from the Giant Kemoyin Serpent could penetrate through any protective layer made from energy, and enter a Magus' circulatory system through his skin. For spells that helped one hold their breath, that was even more useless.

This sort of poison not only corroded one's physical body but also did not let off one's spirit!

Chapter 267: Scorching Touch

The largest issue Leylin had with this was that the poison worked too quickly, and even he himself did not have any methods to save the poisoned ones.

The poison from the Giant Kemoyin Serpent was not simply a neurotoxin. Some ancient sinister thoughts and intentions had been mixed within, which made it difficult to dispel.

The reason that Leylin was not afraid was because after modifying his heart, he was now considered to be partially a Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Naturally, he would not be affected by his own poison, but it would be too difficult for him to save someone else.

Based on his estimations, even a rank 3 Magus would find it nearly impossible to deal with this poison. Perhaps only a rank 4 Morning Star Magus would have a solution to this.

“Looks like I can’t use this ability as I like! It can only act as a trump card.”

Leylin forced a smile.

The area of attack was much too vast, and it did not differentiate friend from foe. If he used this, it would definitely result in the loss of many innocent lives and give rise to public anger.

Though Leylin would not feel any guilt or shame, he did not want to become hated by many due to a simple accident.

For instance, after seeing all their subordinates dead, the two rank 2 Magi, Cabourn and Desmund, were on the verge of exploding with rage!

“You... You actually...”

Desmund howled, the lightning imprint on his forehead shining crazily, “You actually destroyed my Lightning Corps! I will kill you”

He had brought all the elites of his Lightning Corps here. On top of that, he had left two large armies here. In other words, Leylin’s Toxic Bile had

utterly decimated his subordinates, which caused Desmond's eyes to turn red. A violent aura undulated around his body.

Compared to Desmond, Cabourn was dealing with this situation much better. After all, he was a dark Magus, and was used to massacres. No matter how many of his underlings were killed, it wouldn't affect him.

His mind was focused only on the strange spell that Leylin had displayed that intimidated him.

"What a terrifying ability! Is this his innate spell? A toxic area of effect attack that even a rank 1 Magi cannot withstand?"

As a veteran dark Magus, Cabourn immediately began to estimate Leylin's battle power. He could envision how terrifying such an ability would be in a war!

This was a battle power that had a destructive power that could rival a natural disaster.

"Crap!" Cabourn and Desmond paled at the same time, and their bodies, which were in midair, began to tremble.

A purplish-black gas rose in front of their faces. This was the poison of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent! Even a rank 2 Magus could not completely dispel it!

"Seal of Ten Thousand Poisons!" The lumps on Cabourn's shoulders exploded, and a red ring of flesh twisted into a circle rune, sealing the purplish-black gas within.

Only after the poison was sealed did he have the time to look at the state of his old rival.

Desmond was in worse shape than he was. Great amounts of lightning were in front of Desmond's face, and the lightning rune between his brows was moving around, forcing the black poison to coalesce into his right arm. With a resolute look, his left arm struck down as quick as lightning, and he chopped off his entire right arm!

Though Magi could use all sorts of methods to regenerate their limbs,

their battle power would be largely diminished if they had just lost an arm.

“Old fart, how are you?” Cabourn and Desmond were old rivals, and in front of Leylin, whose strength was scarily powerful, these two had joined hands to oppose this enemy.

“It’s...it’s nothing!” Desmond huffed. A ring of lightning flashed by his wounds and immediately stopped the bleeding. “It’s just that I can only use 70% of my peak strength. How about you?”

“A little better than that. I can exhibit 80% of my strength. Any more than that and my seal will lose effectiveness...” Cabourn forced a bitter smile, “Leylin actually dared to kill my kin! I will definitely kill him!”

Under Leylin’s all-encompassing toxic attack, Giant, and Caesar, peak rank 1 Magi who were seriously hurt and in a coma, were obviously not spared.

In addition, since the little boy who Leylin had previously killed did not come back to life. Caesar’s three spirits were all dead. In other words, he had really died!

Cabourn was Caesar’s father, and was not on good terms with Leylin. In this situation, he had another grudge, which was for the death of his son!

“It looks like we need to work together!” Desmond looked grim.

“En! I have no idea how that freak trains.” Cabourn and Desmond inched a little closer to each other.

“Sigh...”

Leylin sighed at this moment and approached Cabourn and Desmond.

“Kill!” Leylin initiated the first attack, and huge black fireballs filled the sky like large stars.

At this point, Leylin’s conflict with these two rank 2 Magi could no longer be resolved peacefully. This fight would only end when one side was completely eliminated.

After being promoted to a rank 2 Magus, the might of the rank 1 spells that Leylin used had also obtained a huge boost.

The Latent Fireball now held a power that was more than several levels stronger than when Leylin had used it while being a rank 1 warlock.

Huge waves of black fire streaked through the sky, almost evaporating the molecules in the air into nothingness.

“He’s only just advanced and has yet to record the spell model of his rank 2 spell. Beware of his poison innate spell!”

Cabourn and Desmond exchanged glances. One person produced tremendous amounts of lightning, while the other sent out greyish-black tornados that charged towards Leylin.

Lightning, tornados, and black flames mercilessly collided against each other.

Silver spiritual power split the air, giving rise to a huge spiritual force maelstrom!

Under the manipulation of solidified spiritual power, the rank 2 Magi exhibited magic that far exceeded the might of rank 1 Magi, reducing the Four Seasons Garden’s headquarters into rubble.

Three large silver hands that were over ten metres long wrestled like giants from ancient times.

“Toxic Bile!”

This fight continued for over ten turns, and with a glint in Leylin’s eye, a formless ripple of poison dashed towards the two opposite rank 2 Magi.

This time, even the air slightly rippled.

“Be careful of his poison attack!” Cabourn and Desmond retreated as if they had seen a poisonous snake.

Weng Weng!

Formless ripples smashed into the two Magi’s innate defensive spell formations, producing sounds of corrosion.

A strange glint flashed through Leylin’s eyes, and the formless ripples turned into transparent hands that grasped towards Cabourn.

Pak! The innate defensive spell formation in front of Cabourn could not withstand the attack from this transparent hand, and a large hole was made.

“Ah! Omni-Decay!”

Cabourn looked torn as he yelled the incantation.

Black tornados whirled in all directions, looking like a blooming black flower bud.

*Rumble!” The large transparent hand and black flower collided. Both attacks dissipated, and the stray energy spread outwards.

A transparent tear in the sky exploded, and black spatial cracks formed.

Leylin and Cabourn attacked in two different directions.

At this moment, a sinister smile flashed in Leylin’s lips. With a wave of his hand, a large amount of red powder spread into the air like a cloud of fire, “Scorching Touch!”

Two lines of fiery energy shot out, and in an instant, they streaked through the air and appeared before Cabourn.

The energy fluctuations from the attack caused Cabourn’s face to change, “Rank 2 magic! How can this be? Hasn’t he only just advanced?”

Pu! Pu!

The two fiery streaks drilled through Cabourn’s lower abdomen and right shoulder, creating two large wounds that had been charred black.

The reason why Leylin had been in a tussle with these two rank 2 Magi was to stall for time, so that he could analyse the rank 2 spells in the Book of Giant Serpent!

After obtaining the Book of Giant Serpent, Leylin had received three rank 2 spell models. However, while he was still a rank 1 warlock, the A.I. Chip had been unable to make anything of them.

Only now, after his advancement, could the A.I. Chip finally analyse these spell models.

Leylin chose a fire elemental offensive spell and ordered the A.I. Chip to analyse it. With the powerful calculative abilities of the A.I. Chip, the spell model was finally analyzed, and the information was sent to Leylin's mind.

"Thunder Tempest!" Upon seeing his ally injured, Desmond immediately charged out to help.

A powerful storm of lightning surged up like a wave and swept towards Leylin.

"Kemoyin's Scales!" Leylin steeled his expression, and fine black scales appeared all over his body.

After advancing to a rank 2 warlock, the scales on Leylin's body emitted an even deeper black luster, and there were even incomplete patterns on the surface of the scales, which vaguely formed a dark elemental rune barrier.

The barrier instantly shaped into a huge, solid black runic shield that situated itself in front of the tempest.

Leylin did not care for Desmond's attack from behind, and his eyes turned into amber vertical pupils that stared straight at Cabourn, who was quickly retreating while spitting out blood.

"Eyes of Petrification!" From Leylin's amber vertical pupils, two lines of petrification rays caught up to Cabourn, who was in the middle of retreating.

"Ah..." Cabourn let out blood-curdling screams and covered his eyes, from which a layer of ashen-white stone skin began to extend.

The power of a rank 2 warlock was even more powerful than a rank 1 Magus, and the two rank 1 innate spells Leylin originally had had received a huge boost. Even a rank 2 Magus was affected.

Leylin's speed increased rapidly, and in an instant, he caught up to Cabourn, who was still fleeing.

There was no trace of emotion in his eyes. The fiery red Scorching Touch was casted again.

Three fiery streaks combined and became as thick as a person's arm, and penetrated through Cabourn's brain.

Bang!

Cabourn's head exploded open like a watermelon, and red and white cerebrospinal fluids and blood dripped all over the ground.

Boom!

The large black shield shattered, and lightning leaked through the cracks and headed towards Leylin.

Tss tss!

Blue lightning exploded behind Leylin, and he turned pale.

Chapter 268: Obliteration

“Now, it’s your turn!”

Leylin turned back, coldly staring at Desmond.

.....

Days later, shocking news spread throughout the south coast.

The dark Magi had attacked the Four Seasons Garden’s headquarters once again, and all the Magi there had been completely wiped out. The entrance to the secret plane had been destroyed, and even the rank 2 Magus who had come to provide support had died in battle.

What made this news even more shocking was that in this battle, even the dark Magi who had attacked had not garnered any benefits. Not only had the leader, Cabourn, died, even the elites of the dark Magi had been completely annihilated too.

After the battle, Leylin’s name was spread far and wide.

As someone who had killed off two rank 2 Magi and even destroying the entrance to the secret plane, Leylin was now on the wanted list of both the light and dark Magi.

Any rank 2 Magi held immense power in the south coast, and were highly regarded.

A rank 2 Magi going solo and not bound by any restriction, and who also possessed the terrifying ability to control a battle! Leylin’s existence was now one feared by many highly-ranked Magi!

His nickname as the “Demonic Poison King” began to spread.

In a region called the Land of Eternal Light.

A castle-like building that was upside-down was somehow standing upright. The defensive runes on the surface of the building constantly flickered. This was where the Botelli Family, who were rumoured to hold divination abilities, resided. Though their power had declined in the past few hundred years, they still retained some of the power from when they

were at their peak. Beside the gate to the castle were two strange stone guards.

In front of the gate were two statues with large swords plunged into the ground. These two statues were over ten metres tall and two to three metres wide. Whether it was their appearance or weapons, they gave off an intimidating aura.

Within the castle, in a basement filled with white chilly air.

It was filled with translucent blocks of ice. At the centre of the cold room was a transparent ice coffin. With a pair of hands placed on her lower abdomen, a girl of noble blood and an elegant temperament was quietly lying within.

Though Jenna was still in a coma, the curse on her body was already beginning to spread. Black lumps of flesh and veins constantly spread. On Jenna's face, black gas would not dissipate, and it looked something like little snakes constantly spiralling.

With these snakes attached to her, Jenna's eyelids kept moving and she looked to be in immense pain.

It had been almost a month since Leylin had set up the curse, and it was already on the verge of completely exploding.

Without a cure, Jenna would likely end up like Manla, who had turned into a set of dried up bones!

Boom! The door to the ice room was pulled open, and the old woman who had met with Leylin walked in.

"Jenna, the guide of our generation! Based on the will of the mighty Mother of Peace, you shall continue to exist in this world!"

The old woman mumbled, and then placed a blood-red key on the freezer.

Weng weng! Red rays were emitted from the key and began to seep into the ice coffin. The red light covered Jenna's body in an instant.

Under the illumination of the red light, the black gas on Jenna's face

began to vanish. The terrifying might of the curse waned at a rate that could be seen by the naked eye.

“The talisman to undo the curse provided by Leylin is effective, as expected!” The old woman looked at the freezer that was emitting red light, and her expression brightened.

After having traded to Leylin the incomplete high-grade meditation technique that was inherited generation to generation in exchange for the talisman, she was able to rush back before the curse completely exploded!

“Leylin Farlier, you sinner! You shall be punished and judged by the Mother of Peace!” The old woman made a few hand signs and prayed in a low voice.

Drip! Drip!

Droplets of blood-red liquid formed from the key and penetrated through the layer of ice, and dripped onto Jenna’s pale, snow-white neck.

Tss tss! White gas rose from the area on Jenna’s neck that was covered by the blood-red liquid as it began to recover at a visible rate.

Weng!

Jenna, who had been unconscious all this time, suddenly opened her eyes!

Boom! Boom! Boom! The ice coffin shattered into pieces, and strange undulations traveled throughout the ice room.

The old woman was extremely familiar with this energy fluctuation. This was a phenomenon that happened when their guide was making a prophecy!

“She’s going to start now?” A bewildered look appeared on her face.

“I see countless deaths! Demon king! A demon king with toxic abilities is approaching...”

Jenna’s eyes suddenly rolled back to show whiteness, and a low and gasping voice was heard.

“Toxic? Demon king? Could it be...” The old woman was startled and suddenly recalled the latest news.

Weng Weng!

The blood-red key from before suddenly hovered in the air, producing glaring rays of light.

“A tracking imprint? This is bad!” The old woman’s eyes widened!

At this moment, outside the upside-down castle, Leylin in black robes appeared.

“Is this the rumoured upside-down castle? It really is quite strange!”

Leylin lifted his hood and sized up the building in front of him, sighing in admiration.

After killing two rank 2 Magi, he knew that he would be chased by both light and dark Magi factions. Hence, he had changed his clothes and escaped out of the secret plane via another exit.

Though there were strict testing methods at each entrance, these were all tests that picked out the aura of precious materials gathered from the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, preventing them from being smuggled out.

With Leylin’s abilities as a rank 2 Warlock, it was naturally effortless for him to escape.

As for the sensing of any items, Leylin had placed them in the spatial leather pouch. With the isolation from spatial runes, even the most refined detection spell formations would not discover any traces.

Leylin raised his right hand, and on his wrist, a red key-shaped imprint was pulsating with light.

“It’s here!”

Leylin grinned as he looked at the tracking imprint.

The place where Jenna’s family was located was hard to find. It could be said that even Hyder needed the old woman’s directions in order to enter.

There was no real map.

In the trade with this old woman, Jenna's family's grandmother did not have good intentions and wanted Leylin to take this incomplete high-grade meditation technique and be taken over by it. Leylin, similarly, was not kind and added a tracking imprint into the talisman.

With the help of the imprint, he was finally able to locate the nest of Jenna's family.

"Though the high-grade meditation technique, Sacred Flame, is incomplete, it is still unique! Its nature is extremely troublesome, and only one person in the world is able to train in it at a time."

Leylin's lips curved as bloodlust overcame in. He did not have a good impression of this egocentric family. Since he'd found where they were, it was natural that he would want to get things over and done with.

"Halt!" The two statue guards at the gate came to life and their muscles rippled as they yelled in a low tone.

"Two magical beings? Together, their power is almost equivalent to a rank 1 Magus!" Leylin's eyes flashed, already pinpointing information about these guards.

"This level of defense for a Magus family is not half bad!"

Leylin waved his arm and two large black fireballs flew out, meeting the large statue guards that had whipped out their weapons.

Bang! Boom!

The fireballs smashed into the large stone swords, and like water engulfed the bodies of the guards. The two guards immediately turned into two huge, black torches that burned furiously.

Under the attack of Leylin's Latent Fireball, the two statue guards that had been around for thousands of years instantly turned into a pile of black powder.

"Enemy attack!" "Who is it?"

Countless urgent voices sounded in the castle, and then the mournful,

piercing sound of a copper bell. The runes on the surface of the castle began to move.

For the defense of such an ancient family, even a peak rank 1 Magus would not be able to penetrate through if it was completely activated.

“Hah...”

Leylin let out a long sigh, and streaks of silver spiritual force extended from his body. His body then mysteriously hovered in mid-air, forming a huge silver face.

“Toxic Bile!”

From the lips of the large silver face, a cold incantation was exclaimed.

The poison from the terrifying ancient creature, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, soundlessly penetrated throughout the insides of the castle!

The runes outside were entirely useless towards poison attacks. Every single person inside, whether it was an acolyte, servant or even official Magi collapsed to the ground, their bodies beginning to rot.

Not only the castle but in a range of half a km away, all the plants were beginning to dry up and rot.

Silence! The eerie silence of death! It shrouded the area, with the castle at the centre of it all.

In this large area, no being was lucky enough to survive and sunk into the eternity of death.

Bang! The old grey gate that was still full of patterns had an ancient aura that silently toppled.

Under the corrosion of the poison, not only the defensive formation, but even the building itself was affected by the destructive force.

In the granite that seemed to be extremely solid, there were hundreds of thousands of little holes that were the result of the corrosion. The entire building swayed and looked on the verge of falling. Leylin felt as if at a light push, the entire castle would fall with a huge rumble.

In the corridor that was filled with a putrid smell, rotting corpses were everywhere.

Leylin followed the tracking imprint and advanced further, finally reaching the ice room that was far into the castle.

He entered the ice room filled with chilly white gas and saw the two corpses.

The old woman had died extremely painfully, holding test tubes that held all types of antidotes. Of course, there did not seem to be any use in it and her flesh was still rotting.

As an official Magus, her resistance was obviously more powerful than a regular person. Even when dead, her body was still more difficult to destroy.

Chapter 269: Arrangement

On the icy counter in the middle, Jenna's corpse lay silently. On her face, which had mostly been eaten into, all sorts of craziness could be seen, as if the expressions of different people had been mixed together. There was even a trace of relief in her smile, which made it even stranger.

The poison from the Giant Kemoyin Serpent had a vigorous corrosive effect, and the spirits of all the spirits residing in Jenna's body were being eaten into by the terrifying toxins.

"How pitiful!" After obtaining the high-grade meditation technique, Sacred Flame, Leylin had used the A.I. Chip and simulated the characteristics of this meditation technique.

Gathering generations of ancestors and keeping it in the body of descendants, this high-grade meditation technique was something even dark Magi would find furtive and terrifying!

In addition, Jenna, who was the host body, would become schizophrenic and turn into a pitiful state.

To some extent, after training in Sacred Flame and inheriting the spirits of her ancestors, Jenna had already died.

"What a strange meditation technique, and a pitiful family!" Leylin touched his chin.

The properties of Sacred Flame caused him some hints of fear. Before he completely made sense of it and researched methods to evade these effects, he was not willing to go anywhere near it.

Half a day later, Leylin left the castle.

Crash After he left, little stones constantly slid off the castle, and huge cracks appeared on it.

Rumble!

The castle completely collapsed and turned into a pile of rubble. From hereon, the Botelli Family was no more...

Dense clouds covered the sky, thunder and lightning occasionally could be heard.

Moments later, black raindrops descended from the horizon.

At the Teljose volcano that was not far away, a great pillar of flames suddenly erupted towards the heavens. Large amounts of volcanic ash flew to the air, and along with some man-made structures, they turned into fertilizing raindrops and descended, which provided the Teljose Plains with great vitality!

The peasants who were farming quickly knelt by the roadside, singing praises to the Magi of Nightless City.

With the protection of the Magi they had plentiful harvests that were enough for them to live on without fear for lack of food or clothing, even after paying the large taxes and contributions to their lords.

A large black handsome horse streaked through the rain, and one could vaguely see the figure of a young man.

“Hawke... What a shame...”

While urging on his horse, he lamented inside.

In the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, the range of his Toxic Bile was too fast and powerful. Even Hawke, who had been kept at the edges of the headquarters, could not escape. In this attack that did not differentiate friend from foe, Leylin lost this very convenient mode of transportation.

Leylin had needed to deal with Caesar and set up the Ten Thousand Spirit spell formation. He even needed to secretly notify Desmond, and his mind had been whirling at high speeds. The Venom Wyvern Hawke was just a pet that was a means of transportation. Without taking it into account, it had died together with the Magi on the outer layers under Leylin’s poisonous attack.

“However, due to the limitations of its kind, the Venom Wyvern can only become as strong as a rank 1 Magus! After I was promoted to a rank 2 Warlock, Hawke’s usefulness will only decrease bit by bit. I was going to find an opportunity to set it free, but...”

Leylin sighed, taking a moment of silence for Hawke's unfortunate passing.

He then tossed this thought to the back of his mind, focusing his attention on the large Nightless City that was towering in the rain, a cold smile about his face.

He turned the horse's head, and it diverged from its original route and galloped towards a little town inhabited by regular humans.

Due to its huge popularity, there were tens of large towns near Nightless City where regular humans lived. Like satellites, they surrounded Nightless City.

Everyday regular humans from all walks of life, people having the desire to become a Magus, fugitives, or even people who were only here because of their youth and adventurous nature discovered the brutality of reality. These humans were chased out of Nightless City and could only dither around in this sort of town.

Leylin came to a town called Clint, found a bar and entered, ordered mead, and drank it silently.

"Master!"

Ten or so minutes later, a few people dressed in black clothes with hoods arrived, and an old man who was the leader exclaimed.

"En! Come with me!"

Leylin tossed out a silver coin and brought this group of people away from the bar.

Next, the old man brought Leylin to a villa on the outskirts of the town.

"Master! After receiving your message, we immediately tidied up the supplies and left Nightless City. We rented this house and have been awaiting your return!"

After entering the villa, the leader removed the hood and revealed a silver-haired old man.

This was Damien, the level 3 acolyte slave Leylin had bought, who was

also his butler. He was in charge of Leylin's property in Nightless City.

Number 4 and Number 5, the two female Grand Knights were also around. Like guards, they were vigilant by the door.

The first time he had met the boy and accepted Thousand Meddling Hand's mission to be a spy, Leylin had had a bad feeling about the whole situation and passed down the order for Damien and the rest to leave Nightless City as soon as possible.

Upon hindsight, his initial decision was the correct one. If not, Damien and the rest would have long since been taken captive by the light Magi.

"Damien! Number 4! Number 5! Can I trust you?"

Leylin looked grim.

"Master! Your wish is our command!" Hearing Leylin ask this so seriously, Damien and Number 4 and Number 5 immediately knelt on one knee, chanting the reply.

They were slaves spiritually bonded to Leylin. Like Number 2 and Number 3, they could not disobey even if Leylin wanted them to kill themselves!

"Good! Now, I want you to cross the Death Channel and return to my hometown, the Chernobyl Islands and protect my family!"

"Understood!" Damien and the other two immediately agreed.

"I want you to leave inheritances on Chernobyl Islands, and make an oath that your students will continue this mission, till the end of the world..." Leylin's voice became hoarse.

"Understood, master!" The three spiritually branded slaves trembled and bowed their heads lower.

"Good!" Leylin nodded. With a wave of his hand, three black streaks flew from his hand and entered the foreheads of the three people.

Tss Tss! The spiritually branded slaves immediately grimaced, hands tightly grasping the ground. On their foreheads, Leylin's own secret imprint emerged.

“This is my blessing! Within is a magic attack that is as powerful as an attack from me going all out! With some rituals, it can also be passed down...”

Leylin was now a rank 2 Warlock, and there were few who had this level of strength in the entire south coast! Just an attack would cause an official Magus to be seriously injured, or even die!

The secret imprint had even more uses. The south coast had a few Magi who were proficient in divination, such as by astrology and making prophecies. With this imprint, they would be mostly immune to these spells.

Just Leylin’s current might as a rank 2 Warlock meant that ordinary divination methods were useless against him.

Magi were a source of terrifying radiation and pollution, and this was even more potent for a rank 2 Magus. Leylin could feel that he was like a constant energy furnace, constantly emitting frightful energy undulations that even caused the air to distort.

At a certain level of strength, even the external world would be affected! If there was anyone who wanted to make a prophecy about Leylin right now, an ordinary rank 2 Magus was far from enough. At least a rank 3 Magus who was proficient in divination would be able to do so.

With the protection from the imprint, the three of them could find a place to find and take care of the Farlier family.

Leylin did not bank on them being able to withstand the attacks from dark and light Magi. All he wished for was for them to safeguard and defend the Farlier family from dangers in the Chernobyl Islands.

Based on standard practice in the Magus world, before confirming that Leylin was dead, any dark and light Magi would not dare strike against the Farlier family. If not, they would be met with the crazy retaliation from a Magus who had already reached rank 2 and had a terrifying destructive might!

This level of attack was something that not even the Lighthouse of the

Night, which had a rank 3 Magus, would be willing to go up against!

Hence, with the protection from these spiritually bound slaves, the Farlier family that was on the Chernobyl Islands were completely safe, and would also receive a huge boost to develop further!

“These three people and their successors should be able to protect the Farlier family for at least five hundred years! In that case, I do not have to feel anymore guilt towards them...”

Leylin huffed out a sigh. His body belonged to the original Leylin Farlier. No matter what kind of person he had been, he was still apologetic for having possessed someone’s flesh and blood.

But if he had to return and acknowledge a bunch of strangers to be his relatives and even parents, then he was not going to do that.

In the end, not concerning himself with them was his best choice. If that did not work, it was still possible for him to wait a few hundred years and wait till everyone Leylin knew died, and then give their family some advantages.

“And this!”

Leylin pondered for a moment, and then removed the dark red cross pendant from around his neck.

This was the middle-grade magic artifact he had carefully made—the Fallen Star Pendant!

After becoming a rank 2 Warlock, the help this magic artifact rendered him was insurmountable. Due to the limitations of the resources he had, it was difficult for the Fallen Star Pendant to be powered up any further.

“Bring this back too! If a successor of the Farlier family with potential to become a Magus appears, give it to him!”

Leylin handed the Fallen Star Pendant over, and at the same time, he felt as if a weight had been lifted off his shoulders.

Chapter 270: Returning To Town

The cold breeze swept past, leaving behind pieces of dried leaves swirling in the air, which danced like butterflies.

The crystal clear stream flowed silently, adding to the tranquility in this area.

A grey squirrel shook its fluffy tail and ascended the tree as fast as lightning, and rapidly gnawed on the acorn it held. From time to time, it would twist its little head to observe its surroundings.

Ka-Cha! A dried piece of wood was stepped on and broke. The squirrel was startled as it let go of the acorn it held and climbed even higher in the tree. It looked down in apprehension at the human figure who had broken the peace in the area.

“The last time I’ve been here was less than a year ago, wasn’t it? To think that it had actually changed this much...”

Leylin exclaimed as he glanced at his surroundings.

He had returned back to the small town where the Old Devil had brought him on an expedition to the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect.

Only this town had already been reduced to ruins.

A murky green vine crept around the town’s ruins, in which the occasional figures of animals could be seen flitting past. However, there were no signs of human traces at all.

From the many visible indications, the inhabitants of this town had voluntarily chosen to forsake their homes soon after Leylin’s expedition.

“This is the fear towards Magi!” Leylin shook his head and did not feel the slightest shock regarding this turn of events.

Although Leylin and the others came here covertly and did not slay any of the inhabitants, they still put the town’s people in a deep slumber for three days. However, the residents would only associate these eerie methods with Magi!

It was known that Magi of the light Magi domain would be more friendly to regular humans on the surface.

However, who could have guaranteed that the residents would not see a dark Magus? Hence the flustered residents immediately chose to report it to the authorities.

However, during that time the Eternal Rivers secret plane had just been made public knowledge to all Magi. The strength of the light Magi had been concentrated there, so no one had the leisure to bother with a desolate little town who had suspected dark Magi activities. Furthermore, no deaths were reported!

Hence, the light Magi alliance only sent out several level 3 acolyte to investigate the matter.

Naturally, these acolytes would not be able to see past the disguise set up by an official Magus. Hence, the entrance of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect's secret plane was not discovered. After searching the area to no avail, the group of acolytes could only conclude and report that there were dark Magi who had long since left, apparently achieving their goals in the area.

This degree of danger would naturally not attract the attention of the light Magi alliance, and things had been dragged till this state.

Even if the light Magi did not treat it with importance, how could the residents who had been living in the town their whole lives not mind?

Afterall, under the influence of the light Magi, they had often heard of dark Magi eradicating kingdoms throughout their childhood and as they aged into adults. Although the investigators had already concluded that the dark Magi left, there was always the 'what ifs'.

Hence, without any further support, the residents chose to leave this town.

Afterwards, several supernatural incidents in the area had caused the few elderly folks in the town, who had chosen to stay back, to disappear without a trace. These incidents had caused the town to be fully abandoned by all.

Leylin indifferently thought back to the news he had received of the town. After instructing Damien and the rest to defend his family, he had journeyed to this area and prepared to look at the ancient teleporting spell formation once again.

For the sake of advancing into a rank 2 Warlock, he had destroyed one of the gates to the secret plane and even killed two rank 2 Magi!

This animosity that was created was unusually huge! Although Leylin had confidence in his own strength, he still had to be wary of the fact that the light and dark Magi had their trumps cards: Magi who had reached rank 3!

Right now, Leylin was admittedly not a match for opponents of that level, hence he had decided not to tarry after choosing his escape route.

The dark and white Magi had already infiltrated every corner of the south coast, hence it was not possible to hide here.

Many terrifying and dangerous regions were also located on the south coast. Even for official Magi, going there would mean a 90 percent chance of death. If Leylin were to wander in those areas without any detailed information, then he would be a fool!

Moreover, even if Leylin's luck was good and he successfully managed to traverse past those domains, he might arrive in a barren wasteland like the Chernobyl Islands. Leylin still wished to walk further down the path of a Magus, hence he would not be willing to go to such an area.

However, the ancient teleporting spell formation was different! The distance of the teleportation was vast; it would at least span a distance several times that of the south coast. There was even a possibility that it would lead to another world!

Around the Magus World, there were several mighty worlds and planes. In ancient times, the ancient Magi conquered one world after another, and analysed the unique laws in those worlds to strengthen themselves!

This ancient teleporting spell formation was very likely linked to a world or domain that the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect had once dominated.

Moreover, the place that the teleportation would lead to was definitely a place abundant with resources, at the very least on par with the south coast. Otherwise, why would the ancient Magi have the leisure to create this teleporting spell formation? The cost of creating one was not a small figure, it was enough to cripple the finances of a faction like the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect. Leylin strongly believed that its creation was not merely for the sake of having a means to escape.

“Speaking of which, I wonder how that Gargamel, Old Devil, and Jaye are?”

Leylin stroked his chin.

Although he had already advanced into a rank 2 Warlock, he still had fear towards the Gargamel which had been borne through the fusion of countless vengeful spirits!

Afterall, it had been sealed for God knows how many years by the sect, and actually had the strength of a rank 2 Magus immediately upon its return!

One must know that the Black Horrall Snake back in the Dylan Gardens had regressed from a rank 3 Magus into an acolyte’s level after such a long sealing period!

According to Leylin’s estimation, the Gargamel inside the secret plane had at least reached the strength of a rank 4 Magus before it was sealed!

In ancient times, Magi of these levels had another term coined after them—Morning Star Magi!

According to the description of the Book of Giant Serpent by the Great Magus Serholm, after a Magus enters rank 3, their body will undergo a very long bottleneck period. For a rank 3 Magus to advance into a rank 4 Magus, the difficulty will surpass every prior advancement. It could even be likened to the fact that the difficulty of a regular human into a rank 3 Magus was far simpler than that of from a rank 3 Magus to a rank 4 Magus!

Even in ancient times, rank 4 Magi were rulers of their regions. As for

their title, it was Morning Star!

What was a Morning Star? High above in the sky! Unparalleled! Eternal!

Magus who were able to advance in rank 4 were worthy of such a title! Moreover, their lifespan would be lengthened by a massive amount. Even living to a thousand years old was just child's play! To regular humans or even lowly ranked Magi, this was already reaching the realm of being immortal!

At this level, Magi would really be able to control the devastating powers of flipping mountains and burning seas! It was ineffective to use a sea of people to fight against such power! Just one of them would rival the existence of an army of lower leveled Magi!

It was a totally different idea from the Lightning Corps. Magus armies back in ancient times had at least tens of thousands of official Magi, including several tens of rank 2 Magi! As for captains and vice captains, rank 3 Magi were definitely the ones who held these posts!

If the Lightning Corps was of a standard like this, Leylin would have long since been dead.

However, a Morning Star Magus could obliterate the forces of the ancient Magus army!

The Gargamel which Leylin had seen before had already undergone a long sealing period. However, upon its return, it had the strength of a rank 2 Magus! The strength it had before must have at least been that of a Morning Star Magus!

To put it bluntly, such an existence could kill Leylin with just a finger.

If not for several sources of information which had confirmed the departure of the Gargamel from this area, Leylin would have never dared step foot in here again.

In an area close to the Nightless City, Leylin had given several of his spiritually bonded slaves missions before infiltrating the city.

With his methods now as a rank 2 Warlock, he could even avoid

detection from a fellow rank 2 Magus, not to mention regular guards, by using the spiritual force compression technique.

After spending some of his magic crystals, he then easily obtained the information he needed.

All of the attention in the south coast was still on the Eternal River Plains' secret plane. As for the latest and hottest news, it was the birth of a newly advanced rank 2 Magus, Leylin!

As someone who had destroyed a gate to the secret plane and killed two rank 2 Magus, Leylin had already been put in the crosshairs of the dark and light Magi alliances. Even the danger level attributed to him was of the highest level!

In the south coast, a rank 2 Magus was already a force to be reckoned with like Chairman Siley of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. If Leylin was still in the academy, he could even participate in the turmoil for the Chairman's successor.

Although Leylin was listed as 'wanted' on the surface, many organisations had secretly offered him a position and even promised abundant benefits.

However, Leylin only chuckled at such ideas.

The resources he had pilfered were enough for him as a rank 2 Magus. Moreover, it was not easy to come out from this mess, he did not wish to be embroiled in such troublesome issues once again.

Apart from his information, the other news which had piqued his interest was the spirit plague in the western part of the south coast.

In several regular human kingdoms, there had been a very odd disease spreading!

People who had caught this disease would not suffer from any illness. Only that several tiny black spots would appear on their face and waist areas, where they would slowly be thinned down.

After seven days when the black spots became extremely huge, the

diseased would then die without a sound.

After the light Magi's investigation, the spirits of the afflicted had disappeared without a trace. As for such methods, they were very similar to the spirit plague released by the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect!

This disease had a high contamination rate, which had already amounted to a casualty number of over a hundred thousand regular humans.

Even the light Magi alliance, who had their sights set on the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, sent a rank 2 Magus as the investigation head for this matter.

The most useful piece of information they had acquired was that in areas where the contamination rate was the highest, they had discovered the traces of the devout from the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect. As for their leader, it was none other than the Gargamel!

Chapter 271: Materialisation

“Heh! It’s harvesting spirits to recover its strength huh?”

Leylin figured out the purpose behind this Gargamel’s actions.

This Gargamel, which had apparently regressed from the Morning Star Magus rank, would most likely be harvesting a massive amount of human spirits in order to regain its former strength.

As a collective body that was fused from countless vengeful spirits, the Gargamel did not have to increase its spiritual force through meditation like other Magi. What it needed to do was to absorb vengeful spirits. The more afraid and in anguish they were, the faster it could recover its strength!

And after it had collected all the spirits it needed, the Gargamel would regain the power it had once wielded.

For the south coast, this was a calamity!

To regain back its strength, the Gargamel had to absorb the spirits of at least 30 million regular humans. This number was equivalent to one-third of the total population in the south coast; the dark and light Magi would definitely not agree to it.

Moreover, no one could say for sure what the Gargamel would do after regaining its strength!

Leylin sneered. “But what has all this got to do with me? I’ll leave this headache to the respective chairmen of the dark and light Magi alliance!”

He was no saint, nor was he like that bunch of lunatics from the Botelli Family, who had assumed the role of the protector of the world.

With his memory, Leylin was extremely familiar with the route to the small town. He walked towards what had once been the town’s centre, to where the two storey wooden house was.

This location itself was rather remote, and cobwebs and dust were strewn in the entrance. This appearance made it look extremely unstable,

as if a gentle breeze would blow the house down.

However, Leylin was not fooled by such an appearance. He raised his finger, on which a white glow of light converged.

Weng Weng!

Leylin's finger seemed to have caused some sort of resonance, and covert runes began to crawl like ants to where Leylin's foot was.

"The barrier to hide this area is actually still present?"

Leylin was somewhat astonished. Soon afterwards, he walked to the second level, to where there was an oil painting of an upper-class lady. This was the entrance to the secret plane that had long since been destroyed by Leylin.

"This secret plane was only a small-scale one, and the barrier of the space and isolation were not so strong. If they had strength comparable to the ones in the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, that Gargamel would most likely still be confined in here."

Leylin reached out his right hand and touched the rough, black surface of the wall.

There was a thin layer of greyish black material, which had a granule-like feel to the touch.

Leylin's expression was extremely solemn. On the wall, apart from him feeling that his fire energy particles were affected, there was an additional spiritual force!

This force was extremely subtle, and could not have been discovered if one was not being cautious enough. It gave Leylin a vaguely familiar feeling.

"This spiritual force is filled with evil intent! There's no doubt about it—it's the spirit residue from that Gargamel! It had already escaped..."

Although he could surmise the escape of the Gargamel from the information that he had received, Leylin could only relax after confirming the evidence with his own eyes.

“However, it even laid an alert-type barrier, huh? It seems to have been set up for me...”

Leylin grinned. This Gargamel’s methods were extremely covert. However, it was only useful against regular Magi. The Leylin from before might already have noticed it using the A.I. Chip, not to mention now, when he had the strength of a rank 2 Warlock. This Gargamel’s tricks were ineffective against him.

Furthermore, Leylin’s strength had increased by leaps and bounds, and that Gargamel had only set this alert to match the strength it had witnessed when it had first seen Leylin. Hence, such a miscalculation could occur.

“A.I. Chip! Scan!” Leylin ordered.

Very soon, a layer of scanning ripple that only Leylin could see was on the field. After Leylin advanced into a rank 2 Magus, the A.I. Chip seemed to have received a very large improvement. The task of scanning was completed in an instant.

[A concealed type of spiritual force was discovered; determined to have been left behind by a rank 2 creature! The type is attributed to that of an ancient spirit’s barrier of the second form, analysing...] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

In the database of the A.I. Chip, there was an immense collection of pictures and information. Furthermore, after Leylin had gained control of the headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden in the secret plane, he had obtained all of the data that were available to him, and had saved it inside the A.I. Chip’s database. Right now, Leylin could be said to be a true scholar— an existence that was extremely rare on the south coast.

A silver thread of spiritual force released a unique glow that was filled with a strong yet mysterious quality. It stretched out from between Leylin’s brows and spiralled in midair, before writhing into the shape of a rune and imprinting itself onto the wall.

Ka-Cha! As if something had been shattered, the alert-type barrier that the Gargamel had left behind was completely destroyed.

With Leylin's current strength as a rank 2 Warlock, the act of breaking such a barrier was extremely easy, and would not raise the awareness of the other party.

"The might of the materialisation of spiritual force is definitely not ordinary!"

The corners of Leylin's lips curled up as he felt the firmness and power of his own spiritual force.

A rank 2 Magus had definitely reached a higher realm than a rank 1 Magus. Between the levels, not only did they have superb control over the modification of their own body and obtain various types of power, but they could then choose from the various paths and specialisations and walk further down the path of their own specialisation.

However, there was one ability that all rank 2 Magus had to cultivate in. That was the materialisation of their spiritual force!

This process was to materialise a faintly discernable spiritual force from nothingness using energy particles.

This type of materialisation could only be performed after having their elemental essence conversion reach at least 80 percent. The materialisation of the spiritual force using energy particles far surpassed the might of regular spiritual force. It was also one of the criteria needed to advance into a rank 3 Magus!

Breaking through to a rank 3 Magus required a minimum amount of spiritual force, and also a certain threshold where a rank 2 Magus could materialise their spiritual force.

Right now, Leylin was only at the starting point for the materialisation of his spiritual force, but he had already discovered the benefits of using such materialised spiritual force.

Spiritual force was, in fact, a catalyst for spells. After increasing in power through the use of a spell model and conversion, it would draw from the energy particles in the surroundings?

Right now, the spiritual force, which was acting as the catalyst, had been

strengthened. No matter which spell was cast, its might would be increased!

Hence, the power of a rank 1 spell from a rank 2 Magus would far surpass the one that a rank 1 Magus had cast.

“Fortunately I made preparations to overcome the isolation of the secret plane!”

After expelling the Gargamel’s spiritual force, Leylin looked at the already broken entrance, and sized up the surroundings, before withdrawing various items from his spatial pouch.

Through several past instances of extortion and plundering, Leylin had amassed a huge cache of resources that would even leave a rank 2 Magus gaping. The Insatiable Bottomless Pouch was almost filled with stocks of various ingredients. Hence, setting up a spell formation was not a problem.

Leylin’s movements were extremely quick as he withdrew many different coloured gems and other bizarre items from the pouch and placed them on the floor. He also used a silver powder to draw out a triangular magic symbol on the floor.

Shua Shua Shua!

Leylin’s right hand turned into claws. and several crucial spots in the spell formation were hollowed out to form the necessary shapes.

Soon after, he crushed the gems and energy jewels on the floor with his left hand!

Kacha!

Resplendent layers of light slowly spread out from the energy nodes of the gems, and like water, they slowly filled up the boundaries of the formation.

The spell formation seemed to have come alive, and it began to tremble, emitting beams of light.

Large amounts of visible distortion began to appear in midair above the

spell formation.

Tiny specks of red light seemed like fireflies as they flickered within these distortions.

“What’s next is the localisation of the secret plane’s position!”

Leylin shut both his eyes and recalled the memory of when he was last in the secret plane of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, searching for this familiar aura within the distortions in the air.

The various red specks of light, which were the weak spots of the void, flickered. If Leylin were to choose the wrong one, he would immediately be lost in the chaos of space and ripped into shreds by it!

At this moment, a darker coloured red glow appeared, and in it was an aura of spirits that Leylin was familiar with!

Leylin opened his eyes in solemnity, and a silver light flashed from his pupils!

“It’s in here!”

“Sword of Memphis!” Leylin raised his right hand and clenched his fist as he slashed downwards!”

In the twinkling of the silver light, a transparent longsword appeared in his hands.

The slim blade accurately slashed at the darker red glow of light.

Ka-Cha!

The slash was as fast as lightning, and very soon, the darker red glow exploded, turning into a pitch black tunnel.

Without the slightest hesitation, Leylin dashed into it.

Moments later, after travelling through the darkness, Leylin once again emerged in the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s secret plane.

“Wu!” Leylin rubbed his forehead, “Opening the isolation tunnel of space is, indeed, very troublesome. It’s very difficult to pinpoint it through the chaos of space...”

Very soon, he sized up his surroundings.

It was not very far away from the entrance that he had entered before, and Leylin still had some recollections of this place. However, what was different from before was that the surroundings here seemed to have been abused by a hurricane that was over magnitude ten. The surroundings were in shambles.

“Gargamel definitely threw a tantrum in here! I hope the teleporting spell formation is still alright!”

Leylin thought, before sitting cross-legged on the floor.

“Hissss!” A huge black mist spread from behind his body, turning into many tiny black snakes with red eyes.

“Go forth!” Leylin whispered.

With his command, the countless tiny black snakes began to roam around in the surroundings. As for Leylin, he closed his eyes and used his spiritual force to sense everything inside the secret plane.

As he had the map of the secret plane that he had previously recorded, the searching was much simpler this time around.

Chapter 272: Mending

Previously, on the peak of the mountain of white bones where the Gargamel was sealed, Leylin had made a map.

He later found out that this was the main map of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, and it was essential in his escape from there.

What he now needed to do was to explore the area and make a comparison with the map that he possessed.

Time passed slowly, and the state of the secret plane was presented in front of Leylin.

The secret plane of the Spirit Slaying Sect was largely ruined. Not only had all sorts of mechanisms been completely destroyed, but Leylin could not even find a single complete building.

It seemed that the Gargamel that had been sealed here must have been full of grievances.

That huge mountain of white bones and all the materials in the laboratory were all gone. Even the cabinets full of information were all empty, and it was obvious that the Gargamel had ransacked the area.

The little black snake that Leylin controlled with his mind approached a silver passageway meant to be used as an emergency exit.

The metal was well preserved and seemed to emanate a strong power that could subdue spirits. However, there were a few large stones that had been thrown inside, which were now obstructing the way.

The black snake easily slipped through the gaps in between the rocks and came to the place where Leylin had initially found the secret room.

Rumble! After pressing the power switch, a side of the wall slowly opened to reveal a secret room.

This room was extremely small, with a black spell formation in the centre that was surrounded by four stone pillars. Beside one of the pillars was the remains of a Magus.

Sssii!

The little black snake circled the spell formation and suddenly began to hiss.

Black flames began to burn from the surface of its scales.

The flames became increasingly intense, gradually forming a doorway with abstruse spatial runes on its frame.

“It’s here!”

Leylin came out from the door of flames, and upon seeing that the spell formation had not been damaged, he looked satisfied.

“A.I. Chip! Scan the teleportation spell formation!” Leylin pressed his temples, and a blue light that only he could see began to sweep the spell formation.

[Beep! Scanning complete! Intactness of spell formation is 98.7%. Lack of energy present!]

The A.I. Chip quickly responded.

“Compared to 98.8% from the previous time, it has slightly been worn down. Looks like the area of destruction by that Gargamel was quite substantial, for even this place to have been affected.”

Leylin rubbed his chin and ordered, “Based on the information I received regarding teleportation, begin tests simulating the restoration of the formation.”

In his previous exploration, Leylin had obtained a diary from the skeleton here, which included information regarding the teleportation formation. With additional information that had he later gathered, he had learned the complete technique of the ancient teleportation spell formation; correcting this little imperfection would not be the least bit difficult.

Based on the calculations of the A.I. Chip, the formation only needed to be 97% completed to work, but it was still possible for there to be problems!

Leylin was not going to risk anything when it came to this long distance teleportation. Whether it was spatial distortions or the explosions of spatial elemental particles, anything could leave him dead without leaving any traces.

He did not want to die in some stupid accident.

[Beep! Scanned incomplete portion, beginning simulation of restoration process...]

As the A.I. Chip sounded, Leylin felt as if he had arrived right at the spell formation. His fingers slid like the most precise surgical scalpel as he mended the teleportation spell formation.

The runes carved onto the spell formation were extremely dense and complicated. They were more than ten times tinier than a strand of hair, and Leylin himself did not have the confidence that he could do this in one try and without errors. However, with the aid of the A.I. Chip, his every movement was filled with grace and fluidity. In less than an hour, he had already completed mending the few areas that were incomplete.

Weng! The blue light disappeared, and Leylin returned to normal. The feeling he had just experienced lingered in his mind.

In front of him, the black teleportation spell formation still retained its original state without any signs of change.

“The A.I. Chip’s simulated experiments are becoming increasingly vivid!”

Leylin’s hands flashed as they moved, his fingers forming all sorts of symbols and hand gestures. These were techniques that he had used while mending the spell formation. All sorts of complicated and profound signs were flawlessly made with his hands, as if they had been practised countless times, “Such a unique feeling had already been put to muscle memory...”

Seeing the signs being made so fluently despite only being used once in the simulation, it looked as if Leylin had trained for a decade. A flash of awe appeared on his face.

Leylin immediately thought of other areas in which this would be useful. For instance, learning rank 2 spells! Though he had used the A.I. Chip to aid him in using magic spells through the use of spell models, the movements were stiff and robotic, just like Magi who were training in something for the first time.

But this situation was different. If he used the A.I. Chip's simulation, his manipulation of his spells would reach a whole new level.

Though this was just a short simulation, Leylin now had a rather in-depth knowledge regarding the teleportation spell formation. Though he might not be able to set it up, simple maintenance was not a problem.

Leylin approached the side of the spell formation.

"Thank you for your teleportation spell formation, Lord Magus!" He first went to the skeletal remains of the Magus and bowed towards it. A large black hand then descended, countless tendrils extending and propping up the skeleton.

Boom! A huge pit was dug with the hand and the skeleton was placed within. Soil and stones fell, and this became a grave.

"The area is ugly, so this is the only way to give you a proper burial."

Leylin sighed and then came to the front of the spell formation.

"Naz's Hand, third formation!" Leylin made a spell pattern, and from the tip of his fingers, silver threads were sent out and entwined themselves along the surface of the spell formation...

Two hours later, the teleportation spell formation was now completely restored to its original state, as if it were brand new. Not only were a few damaged portions mended, even some of the original runes were improved using the A.I. Chip.

Leylin looked at the surface of this new spell formation, and his breathing became a little coarse.

"Next is the most important step, which is to test whether this spell formation is functional..."

The leather pouch at his waist automatically opened, and a black crystal flew out and dropped into the energy groove in the teleportation spell formation.

Within this crystal was a pure darkness, with even some transparent, distorted flames burning within. This was the essence of the magic crystals he had purified! The consumed had totalled over a thousand magic crystal cards, which meant a value of over a ten million magic crystals!

Although the ancient teleportation spell formation could send a Magus far away, the energy required to do was also monstrous.

If not for Leylin's recent successes in plundering, it would be difficult to gather this amount of magic crystals.

Rumble! After the essence of the magic crystal was deposited into the groove, the spell formation began to rumble.

Mysterious magic runes began to light up, and bright rays lit up every corner of the spell formation

Ka-cha! Ka-cha! Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

Threads of pure energy from the magic crystal was extracted from the spell formation and poured into the ancient spell formation.

From the bottoms of the four stone pillars, rings of light emerged and spread to the tops of the pillars, until the top suddenly exploded to reveal a hole.

Piercing light rushed out of the centre of the pillars and formed four differently coloured bundles of light, which hovered at the tops of the pillars.

Earthen brown, fiery red, heavenly green, and azure balls of light silently appeared in mid-air.

"Oh? This power!" Within these four balls of light, Leylin could feel the familiar air of energy particles.

"These are... Earth, fire, wind and water?" Leylin was dazed and

immediately recognised the natures of these balls of light.

He touched his chin and pondered deeply.

In a few ancient schools of thought, there had once been a concept that earth, fire, wind, and water formed the foundations of the world!

From the looks of it, the Spirit Slaying Sect also held such a thought.

“Activate!” Leylin exclaimed loudly, using a language that he had never utilised, which was full of a cryptic and ancient aura.

This was the Turian language that the Spirit Slaying Sect used! After recording information regarding this with the A.I. Chip, Leylin had effortlessly learnt this language.

Weng Weng!

Four energy balls constantly fluctuated, and different coloured rays extended from the balls, converging above the heart of the teleportation spell formation.

Ka-cha!

As if the fabric of space had been split in two, and as if lightning had descended, huge spatial distortions appeared in front of Leylin and became a depthless hole.

“Now the teleportation is working!” Leylin immediately came up with a backup plan. No matter whether or not he would need this teleportation spell formation, it would be an escape route if he ever required one.

“Should I go over?” A tempting thought appeared in his mind, but he mercilessly suppressed it.

Based on his conjectures and the A.I. Chip’s estimations regarding space, spell formations like these did not consume a lot energy from the magic crystals, but the moment a real and living subject went through, the required energy would be enough to extract and consume all the power in the essence of the magic crystals!

Leylin was still not clear about the situation at the other end of the teleportation formation, and naturally could not take such a risky chance.

In addition, the magic crystal consumption from the trip was bound to break Leylin's heart.

Without seeing the teleportation spell formation at the other end, Leylin was unable to tell if he could return safely. What if it is was a one-way trip?

“En! Spiritual force can't penetrate through, and detection spells are useless. There has to be another way...”

Chapter 273: Brambles Iron Door

After that, Leylin used a couple of different methods to try to investigate the situation at the other end of the tunnel, but none of them worked.

His spiritual force still wasn't able to see through space and every detection Magus' spell was connected directly to spiritual forces so all of his plans didn't work.

After taking one last deep look at the tunnel, Leylin was extremely reluctant as he deactivated the Magus' formation.

Ka Cha!

The magic stone crystal in the groove of the magic formation automatically flew to Leylin's hand and the various light rays emitted from it became slightly dimmer.

"Hmm? 10% of its power was consumed?" Leylin frowned a little when he felt the loss in power of the magic stone crystal.

It was similar to using one million magic stones in the span of a short moment!

Moreover, Leylin didn't send any living creature through it and just used his spiritual force to investigate it! Otherwise, the magic stone crystal would have been instantly depleted!

"In this case, I must use something like a puppet or spirit slave that can automatically move by itself so that it can head in to check it out before being summoned back!"

Leylin rubbed his lower jaw.

Following this thought, he did not hesitate any longer to leave the secret plane of the Spirit Slaying Sect. As he was leaving, he purposefully set a formation at the entrance to replicate the scene before he arrived as much as possible.

Even though he could observe from various signs that the Gargamel would not be able to break through to the interior emergency pathway,

Leylin did not want to take the risk.

With the help of the A.I. Chip's meticulous calculations, even if the Gargamel were to personally come here, it would not be able to discover anything. This meant that his personal safety had greatly increased.

After laying down the formation, Leylin left the place.

Brambles Iron Door, located in the western part of the south coast, was a large scaled Magus market.

The reason why this place had this name was due to an enormous iron door that was completely covered with thistles and thorns that was nearby. Behind it was a medium sized Magus's secret plane!

In the south coast, the secret planes were mostly controlled by the various large Magi organizations, and this particular resource secret plane was being controlled by the wandering Magi alliance, Iron Crown.

Since the dark and light Magi had suppressed them both openly and secretly and, after having experienced countless suppressions, many wandering Magi who were sitting on the fence had finally chosen to rebel against the major alliances!

This Iron Crown was a power that had been formed from wandering Magi.

In this location, numerous wandering Magi grouped together, took charge of the nearby domains, and even controlled a middle-scaled secret plane!

Even though the middle-scaled secret plane could not be compared with the Four Seasons Garden's large scaled secret plane, it was still extremely rare and precious!

The existence of the Iron Crown was like a torch in the dark; it attracted the various wandering Magi and acolytes from the various lands of the south coast and constantly expanded.

However, it was to this point only.

Since it was a Magi alliance and controlled the management and

contract agreements, the Iron Crown had always been weaker than the powerful Magi alliances. When it dealt with the outside world, it always kept a neutral position. Moreover, it only recently had flourished to the point to being just slightly stronger than the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

Furthermore, the dark Magi organisation Abyssal Bone Forest was only ranked as a mid-tier power!

It was also unknown what the higher ups of the dark and light Magi organizations were thinking. Perhaps they couldn't be bothered to make a plot to share that piece of land and just allowed the Iron Crown to continue existing.

This place had also turned into an enormous bazaar for all Magi!

Since the wandering Magi kept a neutral position, it had become the south coast's irreplaceable free market. No matter if it was a dark Magus or a light Magus, non-affiliated Magus or one from an alliance, all Magi had free entry to this place. Since the Iron Crown watched over this area, the security could be said to be great as there were no terrible incidences that happened, which resulted the rapid creation of a good reputation.

Leylin climbed to the summit of the mountain and looked with an elated gaze at the unfortified gathering city within the flat plain not far from his position.

"Is that the Brambles Iron Door? Its scale is almost comparable to the Nightless City..."

He took advantage of his high altitude and surveyed the area. He could see flat summits and large infrastructure gathered together. It seemed to be like a spider web that was expanding outwards from the numerous pathways.

Moreover, what made him feel amazed the most was that the gathering city unexpectedly did not have fortified walls or guards. Leylin could casually see various Magi moving about in various transportation devices as they moved in the gathering city in all directions.

Leylin had not felt this kind of atmosphere when he was in the Nightless City.

“When the Iron Crown was first founded, it was born from blood and flames. Initially, the thirteen wandering Magi had their hands covered with the blood of the dark and light Magi in order to run this place and to enable a place for the wandering Magi to live.....”

Leylin sighed as he put on his hat before heading towards the Brambles Iron Door.

The specialty of the gathering city was that there were no obvious boundaries. After entering the perimeter of the Bramble Iron Door, Leylin saw various kinds and types of stalls on the road side.

Those stalls were set up by the wandering Magi. Leylin could also see acolytes, Magi, and even humans that were mending the stalls.

“It seems that this place isn’t inferior to the Nightless City! I wonder if I’ll be able to obtain the materials that I need here....”

Leylin thought to himself that his motives in coming here were to gather information, to replenish the ingredients he used most often, and to test his luck on whether he would be able to find any detection spell models. If it really was not possible to obtain them, then he would purchase a few puppets or spirit slaves to explore the plane.

“Hmm?”

Leylin walked without a destination in mind, but his gaze suddenly focused!

At the side of the main road, a group of Magi gathered and they appeared to be looking at some form of public notice.

Various images and words were shone onto an enormous black wall so that Magi from a few hundred meters away would still be able to see it.

The words were blood red with the words ‘wanted list’ written in large. Below the words, pictured of the Magi, their danger levels, and bounty rewards were mentioned.

Leylin had seen this before in Nightless City, but here, he was the top on the wanted list and was described to be incredibly dangerous!

His valiant achievements in his life up until this point in time were recorded, including the fact that he killed two great rank 2 Magi.

What made Leylin astonished was that currently on the wanted list his picture had shifted a position as he was replaced by an unfamiliar Magus.

“It seems that during the period that I disappeared, the south coast has experienced some major events!”

Leylin was a little curious, so he walked forward to see the words that were being shown.

In the south coast, the majority of the wanted people were people that gathered souls, such as a black Magus that committed crimes including slaying cities and eliminating countries. Once a rank 2 Magus entered the board, it would definitely be enormous news.

A rank 2 Magus would be counted as a big shot that oversaw an area on the south coast. There was not any news about such a person being wanted within the past few hundred years.

The rank 2 Magi on the wanted list had always been those few and there wasn't any news that they made a blunder and were caught.

Moreover, in this few short months, there was unexpectedly two rank 2 Magi on the board, instantly attracting the gazes of numerous Magi.

That was right! The person that was positioned in front of Leylin was a rank 2 Magus!

Leylin squeezed to the front row to read up on that Magus.

“Alistair Faron, rank 2 Magus. Title: Solitary Wolf. Crimes: During an exploration, he had killed the tree protector Aleken from the same faction, resulting in three army squads of the Light Magi Alliance to be annihilated, and vast resources from the Eternal River Plains' secret plane to be stolen! Risk level: Extremely high! If any Magus has any news regarding his locations and report it to a member of a nearby Light Magi

Alliance, they will immediately be rewarded with a million magic stones as their reward! Killing the target will enable them to earn one billion magic stones or resources and rewards of equivalent value!”

In the image on the wall, Alistair had a mix of gold and white hair and was a youth which was smiling candidly. His eyes expressed the intelligence that he had accumulated from the passing of time. He had an extremely peculiar personal charm and a scholarly temperament.

After becoming an official Magus, Magi were able to undergo local surgery to change their appearance. Rank 2 Magi were able to undergo more extensive flesh and body alterations.

Since Alistair could kill two Level 2 Magi, he definitely would be at least at the rank 2 Magi’s level. After all, he definitely would not be young since not everyone could be as perverted as Leylin, who could succeed in breaking through to being a rank 2 Magus level before he was forty.

As a matter of fact, when he broke through to the rank 2 Magus level, the entire Magi realm of the south had viewed him as an unprecedented genius.

According to what the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had said, they were extremely regretful of their initial actions.

“However, there were three Level 2 Magi. They seemed to be the guards of the Magi of the light Magi’s alliance at the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. It looks like something major has happened there again!”

Leylin rubbed his chin as he was extremely interested in the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane.

It was vast and had everlasting resources. It wasn’t something that ordinary ancient Magi organisations could establish.

According to Leylin’s hypothesis, those who built it should be an alliance with a few Morning Star Magi.

Moreover, the secrets in the secret plane still had a lot of areas to be investigated.

It was to the point that it was unknown which Magi organisation had created this secret plane. Currently, the dark and light Magi were also unable to give an accurate answer.

“From the circumstances that made rank 2 Magi to fall out with one another and even kill each other, including the high rewards that were to be given out by the Light Magi Alliance, there should be a remarkable incident that happened in the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane...”

Leylin lips curled up into an interest filled smile. He wore his cap as he reentered the crowd.

After a short moment and spending sufficient magic stones. Leylin received a report that he had wanted.

Chapter 274: Information Gathering

“An important treasure? What is it?”

Leylin had now changed his appearance to that of a middle-aged man. As he stared hard at the human figure made entirely out of black fog, discontent appeared on his face.

“We don’t know either, but it’s definitely extremely valuable and has to be very tempting for rank 2 Magi. Upon seeing that treasure, Alistair betrayed the Light Magi Alliance without any qualms and plotted against Alex and Juna, and then snatched it away.”

The voice of the person in the black fog was very hoarse and its body seemed to be on the verge of disappearing at any moment.

“Alright. One last question—Where is he now?” Leylin heaved a long sigh and asked.

“I’m not sure. Somebody seemed to have found traces of him in Nightless City. We made a conjecture of where he’s going, and he’s probably fleeing towards the Endless Ocean...”

Upon hearing this answer, Leylin shook his head.

The Endless Ocean was on the east side of Nightless City, and was in the complete opposite direction from the Brambles Iron Door. Even if he were to chase after him right now, he would not make it in time.

Also, to dispatch a large number of people for a piece of news that he was still unsure whether it was genuine was simply not worth it!

There were definitely a lot of Magi after Alistair. There were even rumours of a rank 3 Magus around, and Leylin was not going to participate.

He himself was a significant fugitive as well!

“Do you have any more questions?” The figure in the fog asked.

“No!” Leylin got up to leave this room.

Clang! The large door rumbled as it closed shut, and the room sunk into

darkness while the figure in the fog gradually dissipated..

“Dear customer, you have asked a total of two 4 A level and 3 B level questions. The total cost comes to...”

After Leylin walked out, a woman dressed in a revealing manner emerged, swinging her enchanting hips. She looked like the boss of a pub.

A pair of ample breasts were almost pressed onto Leylin’s chest.

“Alright, I understand!” Leylin seemed to be provoking her as he smiled, and a small black pouch with gold edges made a long arc in the air and accurately fell between the female boss’ ample breasts, causing her to pout playfully.

After rejecting her intentions and attempts to make him stay, Leylin quickly left.

Hualala! The bricks on both sides of the door shifted, revealing a secluded and dirty pathway. A distance away the sounds of Magi clamouring could be heard.

Leylin turned back, only to find that the door had already vanished without a trace.

There was only a regular wall there, and the place where he had first entered was completely different from where he was now.

These Magi organisations that sold information as a living usually had a perfect mastery over methods in concealing themselves. Leylin could guarantee that their entrance at the Brambles Iron Door was definitely one of many others, and it was impossible to find out where their headquarters were from these entrances.

Even this female boss was not easily dealt with! Leylin rubbed his fingers and left with a smile about his face.

After Leylin left, in the place where the trade had taken place, the female boss’ face changed and she collapsed onto a sofa, revealing her beautiful curves.

At the same time, the immense spiritual force that did not lose out to a

peak rank 1 Magus was gradually exhibited.

This female boss was actually a peak rank 1 Magus! Even in the entire south coast, such strength could be enough to awe or intimidate anyone!

Now, however, cold sweat rolled down her face.

“How terrifying! This spiritual force...” The female boss patted her chest, fear still lingering in her heart, “He’s definitely a powerful rank 2 existence! Why is he here?”

She could sense Leylin’s probing at the beginning, and in actuality if not for Leylin holding back at the end, she would definitely be in a worse state.

The alluring female boss lay on her sofa for a while longer, thoughts rapidly running through her mind. All of a sudden, her expression changed.

“Could it be that he’s here because he received that information as well?”

Immediately, she paled and murmured in a low voice, “It’s getting harder and harder to do business here. This is not good! I need to leave as soon as possible! These kind of things happens every two or three days. I can’t take it any longer!”

.....

Leylin, who was elsewhere, was also recalling the whole matter.

Strictly speaking, this matter did have a connection to him.

After he had destroyed one of the gates into the secret plane, some mechanism seemed to have been triggered and resulted in the mysterious changes in the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane.

A huge ruin had appeared at the heart of the secret plane.

Overjoyed at the unexpected good fortune, the dark and light Magi broke out in battle and, after much difficulty, settled on an agreement and developed this place.

The light and dark Magi had put in a lot of effort in their exploration!

These were the remnants left behind by the Magus who had created the secret plane! If there was a possibility of gaining some inheritance, then who wouldn't jump at the chance?

The light and dark Magi immediately dispatched their elites and teams that were headed by at least rank 2 Magi entered and explored the ruins.

In this exploration, Alistair, Alex and Juna's three teams worked together and overcame a few difficulties. It seemed like they had obtained some incredible item.

This treasure seemed to be an amazing item effective for rank 2 Magi. Alistair had chosen to betray his teammates for this item, and after dealing with Alex and Juna on the sly, he had swept up the treasure and fled!

Upon receiving this news, dark Magi immediately attacked, and this had serious repercussions on the light Magi's end. Not only had two rank 2 Magi died, even the corps that were guarding the area outside the ruins were attacked. At least three corps had been systematically annihilated.

Ever since that matter, the dark and light Magi in the south coast were in a tense situation.

Though the light Magi had had the upper hand previously, it was not as if the dark Magi were completely powerless. The difference in their might was not very big.

Now, in the span of a few months, including Alistair, the Light Magi Alliance had lost a total of four rank 2 Magi!

This definitely had an effect on the ratio of the power between the two factions. Though there were no losses in terms of their rank 3 Magi, which were the strongest they had, the dark Magi were starting to become restless.

Of course, this had nothing to do with Leylin. He was mostly attracted by that mysterious treasure.

"What could it be that would cause a rank 2 Magus to betray his faction and even plot against his companions?"

Traces of red appeared in Leylin's eyes, and there seemed to be a voice inside shouting, "Snatch! Snatch it! Snatch the treasure!"

A desire that he could feel deep inside his bones invaded Leylin's senses.

"Hm? That's weird! When did I become so irrational?" Leylin's expression changed and he grimly looked at the crystal at his wrist.

The crystal at his wrist was currently emitting a circle of red rays, looking about to drip fresh blood.

"The situation is getting worse!" An imposing look flashed by his eyes, and he opened a flask and drank from it.

Gulp! Gulp!

Large amounts of liquid that had a medicinal taste to it travelled down his throat, and Leylin's expression seemed to calm down.

As time passed, the rays from the crystal dimmed, and it turned into a transparent, colourless crystal.

"It's getting increasingly serious..."

Leylin kept the crystal and a solemn expression appeared on his face.

After drinking the potion he had brewed, Leylin could feel his spirit becoming tranquil, the impulse from before vanishing.

"The effects of being a warlock are really troublesome to deal with!"

Leylin furrowed his brows. After his heart had been modified such that he had completely fused with the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, Leylin could feel that the intense emotions due to the bloodline, which he had suppressed with this potion of tranquility, were now beginning to stir restlessly.

After advancing to become a rank 2 Warlock, this situation had become increasingly serious.

Leylin now had no choice but to set up an early warning spell design on his wrist. This colourless crystal was a ward that Leylin had set up. The moment bloodline-induced emotions began to affect his rationality; the

crystal would immediately emit blood-red rays.

The graver this issue was, the more piercing the red rays on the surface of the crystal would be.

Leylin now had no choice but to prepare potions of tranquility and keep it at hand, occasionally drinking some to prevent the emotions from affecting his mind.

After all, for him to be able to come so far, the A.I. Chip was an important factor, the other being a clear mind.

If he lost this factor, no matter how powerful he became, it would simply be a tragedy.

“These emotional issues of warlocks were definitely complications in ancient times. Though the great Magus Serholm had come up with this potion of tranquility, it can only treat the symptoms but not the root cause. I need to find a way that can permanently deal with it.”

Leylin looked grim.

“As for that Alistair, it’s not my place to think about that. Also, he’s so much further away...”

After regaining a clear mind, Leylin touched his chin.

“Of course, If he’s so blind as to offend me, then that’s a different matter altogether.”

After thinking this through, Leylin wore his hood once more and left this deserted alley.

.....

A few hours later, Leylin emerged from a large building that had been built using gold and silver, a helpless look on his face.

Behind him, a Magus that seemed to be the owner was watching him leave, an apologetic expression on his face.

This was one of the top three commerce centres in the Brambles Iron Door, and Leylin had just purchased some items.

It was a pity that besides replenishing a few frequently used materials, there was no mention of the long distance detection spell that Leylin had been hoping to obtain.

As for a method to solve the warped emotions from his Warlock bloodline? Leylin didn't even bother asking about it.

Chapter 275: Trading Event

The inheritance of the Warlocks had been lost from the south coast for many years, so Leylin did not think that he would be so lucky as to be able to find a remedy so easily.

In addition, he did not want to reveal his trump card!

“I’m afraid I’ll have no choice but to rely on the Great Magus Serholm!”

Leylin scratched his chin, walking as he pondered over this.

As a rank 4 Warlock at the Morning Star level, the Great Magus Serholm must have had certain methods to withstand the emotional side effects that ailed them.

The potion of tranquility from before was evidence of that!

Leylin planned to find some vestiges or ruins that had been left behind by him, and hopefully discover something.

Leylin, who had already made up his mind, proceeded to the outer layer of the Brambles Iron Door.

He urgently needed some information or news regarding the Great Magus Serholm. From this, he would be able to find some methods to relieve himself of the side effects of his bloodline.

“Is our guest here planning to leave already?”

Just as Leylin was planning on leaving the Brambles Iron Door, he was suddenly stopped by a strange person who was wearing a hood.

“Who are you? I don’t know you!” Leylin, whose appearance was now that of a middle-aged man with a dangerous aura emanating from him.

The person he was facing could definitely sense this. He was currently like prey that had been marked by an ancient creature, and his two legs began to tremble involuntarily.

“Wait! Wait! My lord, I have no evil intentions!” The strange person began to wave his arms. To prove his identity, he even produced a metal disk and showed it to Leylin.

On the surface of the black disk, a symbol of the Iron Crown had been deeply engraved. There was no ornamentation on it, and the style in which it had been carved was with smooth, firm lines.

“Someone from the Iron Crown?” Leylin’s tone became less aggressive, and his aura also calmed down. He sized up the strange man, who was also an official Magus, “What do you want from me?”

“My lord! We from Iron Crown are extremely respectful and humble towards the many powerful lord Magi. To be honest, the moment you entered the market, we had already noticed you...”

The strange person bowed towards Leylin, “Please come with me!”

Leylin scratched his chin and followed behind him. From this person’s actions, Leylin could assume that the Iron Crown had already discovered his true strength. Then again, as the ruler of this area, a rank 2 Magus like him could easily disrupt everyday life here if he was not monitored. Iron Crown must have developed some sort of probing methods.

“How did you find me?”

Leylin, who was behind the strange person, couldn’t help but ask this question.

After hearing this question, the hooded person in front proudly patted the pouch on his waist. Xiu! A black shadow instantly crawled up to his shoulder.

This was a high-energy being that was similar to a mole, with eyes that brightly shone like shining sapphires. As it looked at Leylin’s body, it couldn’t help but shiver, even wedging its tail in between its legs.

“Pardon me!” The hooded man patted the head of the mole-like being to comfort it. “This is my lifelong magical companion, a Krone Mouse. Krone Mice have a heightened awareness for powerful spirits. Hence, I was able to take charge and become the leader of the defence team of the Iron Crown.”

Leylin glanced at the mole on this leader’s shoulder, a look of understanding in his eyes, “To be able to make this creature that has

already gone extinct your pet, it seems like you have pretty good luck!”

A Magus’ magical pet or companion wasn’t just some mount. They needed to sign a strict spirit contract, and could only have one magical pet or companion in his or her entire lifetime.

Not only did many top grade magical pets have amazing battle power, they could also enhance a Magus’ magic or body. It was said that some legendary magical pets were able to help Magi break through bottlenecks.

Leylin had been looking for a magical pet that was completely compatible with him, but alas, such a thing was difficult to find. One could only depend on their luck, and as a result, Leylin still had yet to make a decision on his pet.

The Krone Mouse completely lacked the ability to fight, and did not have any special abilities that could increase the might of one’s magic or his resistance to spells. Its meagre ability to sense things was basically useless. This Magus had completely abandoned all these possibilities in favour of obtaining a powerful ability in detection, and it was hard to determine whether or not he had made the wrong choice.

Leylin followed the defense team leader into a private room that was opened up by other Magi.

It was extremely quiet, and there were even a few Magi. It seemed that the entrance was tightly guarded, and was only open to members.

“Alright. Can you tell me why you brought me here now? I’ll give you five minutes!”

Leylin was becoming a little annoyed. The leader, who had realised this, quickly launched into the main topic.

“If I’m not wrong, you must already have stepped into the realm of rank 2, right?”

The team leader seemed to be probing as he asked. Upon seeing Leylin admitting to this by staying silent, he straightened even more in his excitement and bowed once again.

In the south coast, rank 2 Magi were the absolute highest level, and were the leaders of large-scaled academies or the wielders of power in families! No matter where they went, they would enjoy treatment that was reserved for honoured guests.

“Oh revered Lord rank 2 Magus! We of the Iron Crown have recently been holding a small trading gathering between highly ranked Magi. Seeing that you did not look very satisfied, I was hoping you would be able to obtain what you wanted there...”

The leader began to explain, and a look of understanding shone in Leylin’s eyes.

In general, though the resources on the south coast were quite plentiful, this was only so for acolytes and regular Magi. The moment one was promoted to become a peak rank 1 Magus or even a rank 2 Magus like Leylin had been, it would be difficult to find a market that could meet their needs.

Hence, trade meetings that were held by individuals, in which only Magi of a certain level were invited, became mainstream.

Many Magi resumed their habits of using material items to make trades after being promoted to a higher ranking, exchanging items for what they needed with Magi at the same level of strength as themselves.

Before, Leylin lacked power, and was not qualified to participate. Now, however, he had been especially sought out and invited.

“Is this a trading event organized by the Iron Crown? When is it? Where will it be?” Leylin questioned. He already had plans to take a look there. Meeting with other Magi at the same level of strength as him would be extremely helpful to him, and in this sort of setting, the appearance of amazing items was almost certain.

“We are extremely honoured to have you participate!” Seeing that Leylin had agreed, a hint of joy appeared on his face.

With both hands, he then passed a black card to Leylin.

“The trading event will be held three days later, and the address is on the

card. When the time comes, you'll just need to bring the card and reach the place on time. In addition, the sages of the Iron Crown would like to have a long talk with all who are at least rank 2 Magi before the trade meeting. You'll definitely not be disappointed."

This leader provided more news, which seemed to be the most important part of this invitation.

"A meeting with them?" Leylin was surprised.

The sages of the Iron Crown were naturally not those who started the organisation, but they had the strength of at least peak rank 1 or even rank 2 Magi. Without this much strength, the Iron Crown would long since have been destroyed countless times over by Magi who harboured bad intentions towards them.

"May I know what it is about?"

Leylin fiddled with the black card in his hands. It was made out of some crystal and was cool to the touch. There were even rings engraved onto it that connected to form an intricate pattern that formed a large metal sword.

"I can't really reveal the details, but I can tell you that it has to do with the incident at the Eternal River Plains' secret plane."

The leader of the defense team smiled, but Leylin began to get nervous.

"The incident at the Eternal River Plain's secret plane? Was my identity revealed?"

Beneath his clothes, black scales protruded through Leylin's skin. However, he quickly reacted, and asked without changing his expression, "Are you talking about Alistair?"

"Yes! He's the lord who betrayed the Light Magi Alliance!" At the mention of Alistair, this leader's tone was still one of reverence towards a rank 2 Magus, causing Leylin to nod inwardly.

Of course, this had to do with his neutral stance. If this leader was a light Magus, he would not call him a lord, or else he would be punished by

the enforcement team!

“Interesting! Very interesting!”

After coming out of the private room, Leylin touched his chin, and a smile appeared on his lips. He quickly disappeared into the throngs of people.

After finishing up this business, this defence leader politely encouraged Leylin to partake in the services provided here, which he did. It must be said that these places that were catered to service highly ranked Magi were truly different, whether it be in terms of food, liquor, women, or anything else. Whatever Leylin could think of, they could provide, and the quality was also first rate.

For large organisations like this, any rank 2 Magus was worth roping in. In addition, Leylin was extremely unfamiliar to them, which had piqued their curiosity.

The Iron Crown obviously did not dare look into his background, though some sorts of observations and investigations were definitely underway.

However, Leylin paid this no mind. This middle-aged man that he currently looked like was completely different, and there was absolutely no information regarding him. By the time the Iron Crown might have found anything out or linked him to anything, he would probably have been long gone.

“But Alistair?”

Leylin suddenly felt as if this was fate. He had already been prepared to let this man go, but somehow, he was nearby Leylin again.

“He’s thought to have fled towards the Endless Ocean, but in actuality, he escaped towards the west. He’s a little shrewd, but that’s it...”

The diversion made by a rank 2 Magus was not so easily seen through. From Leylin’s guesses, there was probably a rank 3 Magus involved!

Chapter 276: Entry

After having lived in the south coast for so many years, Leylin now had a basic knowledge of the situation there.

Geographically speaking, though the south coast was said to be a coast, it was a huge continent that covered mountain ranges, marshes, plains, snowy areas, and all sorts of topography. There were even a few concealed, savage ruins that even official Magi did not dare explore.

The largest population on this continent consisted of the native people. There were around 100 million of these regular human, and were divided into hundreds of dukedoms in various sizes.

Behind these dukedoms were the dark and light Magi controlling them.

The nobility and lords who were in power were basically the descendants of many official Magi!

Every once in a while, large Magi organisations in the south coast would test the spirit and talent of these noble families and recruit them to become acolytes. They would provide them with knowledge for them to continue governing for generations.

Though these academies would also bring in peasant acolytes, the percentage was very low. Only those of exceptional talent would be considered, and most of the times, their lives could not be guaranteed.

Some light Magi academies would not even recruit peasant acolytes, only the dark Magi were willing to do so!

Even with such a large population, the number of peasants with spiritual talent was simply too small.

Out of over ten thousand plebeians, only one would be lucky enough to be born with talent to become an acolyte and a Magus.

Even amongst them, their talent was nothing exceptional. If one talked about third or fourth-grade aptitudes, one really needed quite some luck.

Hence, a lot of academies and schools disappeared not due to enemy

invasions, but from not being able to find a successor. This resulted in the gradual diminution of their power and their eventual demise.

The dark and light Magi both divided their powers well and forbid the recruitment of acolytes at certain boundaries. Due to their conflicting ideas about management, the population that was under dark Magi jurisdiction and their prosperity could not compare to the light Magi.

Hence, the method of recruiting acolytes from outside their region became another way for dark Magi organisations to gain more acolytes.

In Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, this was also the case. They eliminated so many acolytes every year and were not able to steal people from the light Magi domain. This sometimes resulted in a lack of new students to recruit, and they had no choice but to try getting students from the Chernobyl Islands.

Though there were so many methods that could be employed, there were still few official Magi in the south coast.

In addition to this, the difficulty of the process of advancing to a new rank made this problem even worse.

Those acolytes with grade one or two aptitude would basically be unable to advance. Their limit would be becoming a level 3 acolyte.

Advancement to an official Magus was even more difficult, and the method to being promoted was controlled. Acolytes who were peasants had not even heard of a high-level meditation technique, and even if they were lucky enough to advance, they would be mediocre at best.

Rank 2 Magi were even more rare. In the entire south coast, there were only less than a hundred!

For this reason, the Light Magi Alliance's might was diminished after the loss of four rank 2 Magi, and caused the dark Magi to be stirred up.

If it was said that a rank 2 Magus was the highest level that could lord over rank 1, then rank 3 Magi were basically the real owners of the entire south coast!

Based on what Leylin knew, rank 4 Morning Star Magi had virtually vanished, and rank 3 Magi were truly the ones in control.

This was so much so that of all the rank 3 Magi who had had notable achievements, there were less than ten, and every one of them were leaders at the level of Magi from the Lighthouse of the Night.

From Kemoyin's Pupil and descriptions from the Book of Giant Serpent, after a Magus entered rank 3, one would awaken a lot of mysterious abilities. The difference between rank 3 and rank 2 was like that between heaven and earth.

If he was pursued by a rank 3 Magus, no matter what preparations Alistair had made, then all of them would come to naught.

"That Alistair is probably being pursued by a rank 3 Magus, and has been fleeing in this direction!"

Leylin felt like he had deduced the truth.

"That scamming inn actually dared to fool me with false news! If I ever see them again..."

When comparing the inn and Iron Crown, Leylin was naturally more inclined to believe that local tyrant.

In addition, he was quite interested in that exchange meeting.

"An exchange meeting held by the Iron Crown? I think I really should go take a look."

Leylin pondered, and turned in a corner.

Next, a silver-haired old man walked out, quickly vanishing into the market.

.....

Three days later.

Not far away from the Brambles Iron Door., at an overhanging cliff.

The high black cliff seemed to cross the horizon. In the air, there was a little platform that was formed from a large protruding rock. On its

surface was some soil, and weeds as well as vines and flowers that nobody knew the names of were growing.

Whoo whoo!

A black ray of light shot out from a distance away, arriving on the platform.

Rumble! A pit appeared in the soil, revealing a middle-aged, burly Magus.

“Based on the directions provided by the A.I. Chip, this should be the place!”

The burly man took out a black card and came beside the rock stratum. The simple methods used by regular Magi to conceal things were easily seen through, and the burly man laughed, sending out spiritual force waves towards a layer of rock wall.

Bo! Bo!

The rock walls were separated like waves, revealing two Magi in uniform, a metallic insignia on their chests.

At the sight of the man, they were extremely polite, “So it’s Lord Black Snake! We are the Black Iron Guards of the Iron Crown, and we’ve been here waiting for you!”

Upon seeing him tossing out a card, these two were even more respectful as they bowed, “Please come with us!”

They then entered a hallucinatory spell formation, and the burly man expressionlessly followed them.

Within the spell formation was a flight of stairs, and after walking hundreds of metres, the Magi respectfully guided the burly man into a luxuriously decorated room.

After sending away the servants, the burly man surveyed the area.

In front of him was a huge crystal glass, through which one could see a large dome of spectator’s seats and raised platforms.

There were a few Magi already seated, and the energy waves on their bodies were concealed well. However, under the eyes of this burly man, nothing could be hidden. This might was that of a peak rank 1 Magus, on the verge of breaking through!

Recalling the many passageways and large number of Magi, the burly man could not help but sigh, "Iron Crown has really worked hard to open up a passageway for us rank 2 Magi!"

This burly man was naturally Leylin's disguise.

After receiving the invitation, Leylin lost his desire to look around Brambles Iron Door., and found a random cave. He spent the day training in his high-grade meditation technique, and quietly waited for the time of the exchange meeting to arrive.

For Magi, meditation was something that had to be done everyday, and this was even more so for Leylin.

Kemoyin's Pupil was a meditation technique that was extremely compatible with him. Everytime he meditated, he could feel his power increasing bit by bit, and this speed was basically astonishing!

Based on his estimations, his current speed was several times faster than those rank 2 Magi that also had high-grade meditation techniques.

The reason had already been analysed by the A.I. Chip, and it had to do with his bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent!

After his heart had been remodelled, Leylin thoroughly fused with this bloodline. The mysterious strength held within was beginning to be activated by Kemoyin's Pupil, thus increasing his strength.

Each high-grade meditation technique had a different nature. As a Magus trained more, this could even increase a Magus in a certain area, raising one's elemental resistance or even creating a mysterious ability!

In Leylin's eyes, a high-grade meditation technique like Kemoyin's Pupil allowed one to modify one's body and strengthen it through training. A Magus' body would draw closer to that of the ancient Giant Kemoyin Serpent.

As for that incomplete Sacred Flame, a Magus would train and produce a special spiritual force. It did not have any uses other than to extend into the extensive consciousness of the continent, and from the huge amount of historical information, pick out useful fragments and get some premonition.

However, this ability had a large amount of uncertainty, and were sometimes ineffective. The technique was also incomplete, which Leylin found to be a pity.

Behind the crystal glass covering, there was a comfortable white sofa, as well as a communication device that was covered in runes beside it.

Leylin sat without a word, dull silver spiritual force instantly connecting with the communication device, and instantly understanding the way to use it.

This was a communication device, which was also used to send the quoted price to Magi. Magi could manipulate their spiritual force to proceed with all sorts of exchanges, and avoid being recognised by people they knew.

The south coast was not that big, and there were plenty of rank 2 Magi who held resentment against each other. If they were to flare up and fight, then Iron Crown would definitely be in a difficult position.

Hence, they did not dare hold this exchange meeting at the headquarters, but rather set up this place.

For rank 2 Magi, Iron Crown was even more eager to please. On the little table beside the sofa, all sorts of snacks and fruits were placed. Some of them even had the ability to increase spiritual force and the effects of meditation, and their value was something that would even cause regular official Magi to become green with envy. All these items were silently displayed here, letting Leylin pick as he pleased.

“Metal-Leafed Fruit!” Leylin easily picked out an apple that was emitting a metallic lustre, and bit into it.

The Metal-Leafed Fruit was truly the specialty from the secret plane that

the Iron Crown controlled. It had the ability to condense spiritual power and increase the effects of meditation, and was highly sought by some official Magi. However, Leylin almost could not feel any effects.

After advancing to become a rank 2 Warlock, most of these resources that were useful to rank 1 Magi had lost their effectiveness. For items like this, the Iron Crown's special product, it was only a means for him to quench his thirst.

Chapter 277: First Glimmer of Dawn

Ding ling ling!

Accompanied by ringing sounds, an old Magus suddenly appeared on the high platform.

His golden attire looked extremely formal. Beside him were two female servants, who were more attractive than him, holding silver plates. They displayed something that looked like a root and showed it to the Magi below. Surrounding them were multiple projections of enlarged images.

“The Devil’s Antenna is an object retrieved from the body of a beast that had the strength of an official Magus. It has been well preserved within a liquid, and its worth is from two hundred to five hundred thousand magic crystals. It’s a pity that it’s of no use to me anymore...”

Leylin merely scanned the item that appeared on the platform, and immediately lost interest.

“Before the trade meeting begins, is there a need for this auction? How pointless...”

Though Leylin found it boring, the item on the platform seemed to be extremely attractive to the rank 1 Magi below. The shouts of people haggling could be heard, and the auction was extremely lively.

The items on auction by Iron Crown could be said to be of good quality and quite inexpensive, making them highly sought after by the rank 1 Magi.

Magic artifacts, high-level slaves, precious materials, knowledge, and even potions that could increase one’s spiritual force were displayed one after the next, allowing the Magi below to compete with them and choose.

These were obviously not attractive to the rank 2 Magi. Neither Leylin nor the other rank 2 Magi in the VIP rooms shouted out a price.

Leylin simply closed his eyes and rested, using the A.I. Chip to simulate the spell models of rank 2 spells.

Though the spell models of the three rank 2 spells in the Book of Giant Serpents were already in his head, he had realised the other uses of the simulation methods of the A.I. Chip while mending the teleportation spell formation.

Through the A.I. Chip's simulations, he could actually accelerate his own understanding of the activation and firing of these spells, allowing the once robotic movements to be more agile.

This was a function that the A.I. Chip did not have before and was something that had been created after his advancement.

With this function, Leylin's understanding and manipulation of rank 2 spells could almost surpass that of rank 2 Magi who had been accumulating knowledge over many years.

"However, the number of rank 2 spell models that I have is just too small..."

Leylin practised Scorching Touch once more and furrowed his eyebrows.

A rank 2 Magus would usually be backed by a powerful organisation that would have no lack of spell models as they would have been accumulated over time.

However, Leylin was different since he was now going solo. The difficulty of this path was exacerbated by the strict regulations for rank 1 Magi in the south coast which were even worse for rank 2 Magi.

Even when he was in Four Seasons Garden, Leylin didn't even have the qualifications to come into contact with rank 2 spell models.

From killing Cabourn and Desmond, he had gained some experience and realisations regarding the use of rank 2 spells. However, what he lacked was the most important thing— spell models! Leylin only had these experiences as a reference.

"It's not quite possible to buy this sort of thing using magic crystals. Perhaps if I lie low for a period of time, I can try to use other methods..."

As the auction went on, some items that could attract rank 2 Magi began

to appear, and some prices were shouted from several VIP rooms.

At this moment, the announcer's voice from below attracted Leylin's attention, "Middle-grade magic artifact— Sabre of the Dawn! This is a sabre found in an ancient ruin, and it is said that its previous owner was a mighty Branded Swordsman. Starting price: five million crystals, or any precious materials of the same value!"

Leylin opened his eyes, and through the transparent glass screen, focused on the platform below.

At this moment, there was a dull-gold metal long sword put on display by the servants behind the announcer.

This long sword was around 1.5 m long and two fingers wide. For Branded Swordsmen, such as Number 2 and Number 3 who used swords that were the size of regular humans, this was merely pocket-sized.

However, a hint of glee appeared on Leylin's face. On the surface of the long sword of the Rays of Dawn, there were some strange runes which were quite similar to the runes he had branded onto the bodies of Number 2 and Number 3.

"Looks like it's the real deal!"

He nodded, and a slither of spiritual force quoted a price through the communication device, "Five million magic crystals!"

A middle-grade magic artifact naturally was not so valuable, but this long sword was evidently worthy enough to do research on, which garnered the interest of the rank 2 Magi.

Quickly enough, a price was quoted from a VIP room not far from Leylin, "5.5 million!"

Leylin's face darkened and he looked towards that VIP room. It was a pity that he could see naught but a blurry shadow.

The glass in the VIP rooms had naturally been processed. Guests could see outside through the glass, but people on the outside could not see anything inside the room.

“Six million!” Leylin immediately increased the price. Other than the magic crystals he possessed, he also had materials he had obtained from the secret plane and the wealth of two rank 2 Magi. This would obviously cause rank 2 Magi to be jealous, and it was natural that he could be so generous.

As if able to sense Leylin’s resolution and immense wealth, the rank 2 Magi nearby stopped raising the price and this long sword became Leylin’s.

“The guest at VIP room 7, please take note! Our staff is bringing your auction item to do the exchange. Please prepare magic crystals or items that are of similar value...”

News travelled through the communication device, and after just five minutes, an expressionless man brought the servant who had been holding the silver plate to Leylin’s room.

“May I know where this long sword was created?” After the delivery, Leylin’s eyes flashed as he questioned them.

“My apologies! This belongs to the client and it is our duty to keep this a secret for him!”

Though they were speaking to a rank 2 Magus, the staff still rejected Leylin’s demands. This exhibited their manners and professionalism.

“Very well!” Leylin nodded and waved for these two people to take their leave.

Next, he picked up the long sword on the table, and gold rays shined in Leylin’s hand.

A regular middle-grade magic artifact could no longer satisfy the needs of a rank 2 Magus. What was more useful was a high-grade magic artifact or even a magic device!

However, Leylin had no desire to use it. He was merely interested in the runes on this long sword.

“A.I. Chip! Scan and record the runes, and then compare it with the

runes of the Branded Swordsmen!" Leylin thought in his mind.

[Beep! Recorded runes, now comparing with the runes of the Branded Swordsmen...]

The A.I. Chip loyally intoned. Right after, Leylin received the results, [Similarity to fire elemental Branded Swordsmen runes recorded by Host body is 67.1%. Similarity to foundation metallic runes: 34.2%. Similarity to basic sharpness: 13.9%. Estimated to be the runes of the weapons of the Branded Swordsmen! Estimated time required to perfect and alter: 294 hours!]

"Like I thought!"

Glee appeared on Leylin's face. The information he had on the Branded Swordsmen was extremely limited. Even with the A.I. Chip perfecting and supplementing information, he was still only able to gain the fire elemental runic spell formation suitable for males.

As for the runes for other elements and the weapons suitable for Branded Swordsmen, he had no clue at all.

Now, with the appearance of this long sword of the Rays of Dawn, Leylin could finally see some hope.

He also had another thought. The Fallen Star Pendant, which was a magic artifact that had accompanied him all these years, was beginning to be unable to meet his needs. He had hence sent it back to his family.

He now lacked an offensive-type magic artifact.

Perhaps, he could carve these branded runes on a magic artifact by imitating those on the long sword and create a weapon that was meant for him!

Leylin touched his chin and pondered over the feasibility of this plan.

While Leylin scanned and analysed the sword in his hands, a few Magi were quietly discussing in the VIP room that had been competing with him for this magic artifact.

"Torp, why aren't you quoting another price? It's just six million magic

crystals. That's nothing to you, right?"

A female in purple-gold Magus robes spoke to a red-bearded old man, a bewitching aura surrounding her.

"The magic crystals aren't much, and I don't actually want that magic artifact that much. I just want to analyse the runes on it, and I'm sure this kind of special magic artifact has very strict requirements for users. I've even come to suspect that those who aren't Branded Swordsmen will be unable to use this long sword... The ancient Branded Swordsmen have already vanished from the south coast for thousands of years. It's not worth it to spoil our plans for this item."

The red-bearded Torp touched his beard.

"En! You are truly a Master Blacksmith! To be able to glean this much information from just a look..." The woman seemed to be in awe and then continued on worriedly, "I keep having this feeling that the plan is much too hurried. Will he really come..."

"Don't worry! He'll definitely be here!"

The red-bearded Torp spoke with conviction, "We've put out bait this time that is definitely irresistible to him. In order to use that item more effectively, he'll definitely come!"

"That's great!" The woman patted her chest, and then glanced at Leylin's room with some conjectures in mind.

"Say, do you think he's inside? Should I sound him out?"

"Don't do it!" Torp immediately stopped her. "Don't act rashly. If it really is him, would he dare be so bold as to compete with us? Besides, offending an unfamiliar rank 2 Magus would probably be unfavourable to us..."

"Hehe, I'm just joking. You actually took it seriously..."

The woman giggled coquettishly, and her figure disappeared into the darkness, leaving behind the old man who looked to be in a difficult position.

On the platform, the last item on the public auction was sent out. The

announcer went on, “The auction has ended, and we will now enter the segment of the exchange meeting. Those who wish to leave may exit through the passages at both sides.”

Rumble! Along with his words, the large doors at two ends of the hall opened loudly.

Chapter 278: Bait

Many rank 1 Magi left the hall on the first floor through the two doors.

Though they did not know much, from the serious atmosphere that emanated through the hall after the announcer's words, they felt as if they were being pushed down by a mountain.

Hua la la!

The masses dispersed quickly and in an instant, only a few rank 1 Magi were left in their original seats.

On the second floor where the VIP rooms were, not one Magus left.

Boom! The doors closed, and the solemn atmosphere shot up to the extreme!

“Oh? Is it starting?”

With a smile about his lips, Leylin watched the centre and prepared for a good show.

“Alright! Let's start with me!”

From a VIP room on Leylin's far right, there travelled a very robotic voice that was neither male nor female. It had obviously been heavily processed.

“I have one portion of the potion Sea of the Ocean. I wish to exchange it for the hearts of three Fire Scorpions, or the core of a Lava Tyrant! Is anyone willing to make this trade?”

Along with the words, a projection of the potion was sent over, and could clearly be seen by everyone in the hall.

“I have two Fire Scorpion hearts, and wish to replace the rest with magic crystals. How does six million sound?”

A hoarse old voice sounded.

“No, I only need fire elemental materials! However, I can buy those two hearts from you for whatever price you name...” It was a pity that this offer was rejected by that Magus. Next, these two Magi spoke through the

communication device, their conversation now a secret to the Magi outside.

The MC on the platform was already just standing aside, leaving the area for the rank 2 Magi to use.

Leylin waited silently and watched as all kinds of precious items were traded. His expression was calm, like that of a cheetah waiting for its prey to rise up to the bait.

After discussions with Iron Crown and Leylin's own judgement, he could now confirm that this exchange meeting was a setting that Iron Crown or the light Magi faction were using to lure out Alistair.

All that they were putting out were items that Alistair could not resist.

At this moment, an item that made Leylin's eyes twinkle was exhibited in the hall.

"A high-levelled alchemy notebook, recording terrifying information from the abyss. Those who possess too little spiritual power will see illusions while flipping through it. The previous owner has already gone completely crazy and died, so the next buyer has to be careful."

Along with this voice, a book that was black on the outside and had blood-red eyes projected in the middle of the notebook was displayed.

This notebook looked to be extremely torn, and even a few corners were damaged. However, the red eye in the middle was still extremely agile. Though it was just a projection, Leylin felt as if this eye was focusing its attention on himself, causing him to tremble inside.

In addition, Leylin also noticed something interesting on the surface of this black notebook.

Beside the red eye, there were countless veins and black runes. These runes were all twisted together, and actually seemed to resemble little black snakes.

"This..." Silver light flashed at Leylin's palm, and the Book of Giant Serpent that had been kept in his spatial pouch appeared in his hands.

The runes on the surface of the Book of Giant Serpent were extremely similar to that on the notebook.

“The Great Magus Serholm! This is likely to be the notebook left behind by him...” Leylin mumbled to himself, eyes shooting out crimson rays.

At the same time, blood-red rays furiously exploded forth from the crystal on Leylin’s wrist.

“89”

[Warning! Warning! Too much adrenaline is being secreted, and there is an 89% chance that this will stimulate the nerves indefinitely, and result in a detrimental effect on the mind!]

The A.I. Chip sent out blue words before Leylin.

“How... How... How troublesome!” Leylin roared lowly, and then loosened a black water flask from his waist and gulped deeply.

The water that had the potion of tranquility mixed inside calmed the impulse that had risen in Leylin.

At this moment, the sounds of people quoting prices out there could be heard again and again. It was evident that this notebook that recorded information about the abyss had garnered the interest of many rank 2 Magi.

After advancing to become a rank 2 Magus, a lot of Magi who did not possess high-grade meditation techniques had lost their direction. Hence, they were extremely enthusiastic about researching information regarding the Ancient Era as well as other geographical locations, hoping to discover methods for them to advance.

The aura of the abyss on this notebook was extremely strong, to the point that Leylin’s face paled slightly.

For this reason, this alchemic notebook had received the attention of numerous rank 2 Magi.

“I really like this notebook. What do you want?”

Leylin contacted the Magus selling this notebook through the

communication device, speaking in a low voice.

“What do you have for me?”

Evidently, this notebook was extremely popular and the seller was waiting for something good before he would sell it.

“Three standard portions of an ancient spiritual force potion that can be said to be useful in helping a Magus break through. I can even add in 500g of Filthy Magic Dust! Since you have this notebook, you must have done some research on items in the abyss. This Filthy Magic Dust is a precious ingredient that came directly from the abyss!”

Leylin thought for a moment and immediately showed his bottom line.

The Tears of Mary potion was now of little use to him. In addition, after advancing to rank 2, they were now nothing in his eyes.

Also, he was now disguised and this person would not be able to investigate his background. Even if that happened, would anyone dare make things difficult for a rank 2 Magus?

Leylin now had the power to take care of himself on the south coast, and was not afraid of any challenges!

“Hss... Ancient spiritual power potion that’s useful in breaking out of a bottleneck? And Filthy Magic Dust from the abyss?”

It was evident that after Leylin quoted this price, the Magus was shocked into silence for a long while.

After a few minutes, Leylin received his reply.

“Show me the potion!”

“Fine!” Leylin pondered for a moment and then produced a test tube filled with the Tears of Mary. Some silver light bundled up a bit of the potion and disappeared into that Magus’ room.

“It really is an ancient potion! Alright! Let’s proceed with the trade!”

Though the Magus tried his best to suppress it, Leylin could still hear the impatience in his voice.

“Alright! However, I’m not getting the better end of the deal here, so you need to tell me about the origins of this alchemy notebook!”

Leylin, on the other hand, was extremely composed and hoped to gain more clues.

“... Alright, I’ll tell you everything I know...”

The voice was quiet for some time and then sent some information over to Leylin’s room.

Leylin carefully skimmed through the information and then nodded.

The trade between these two VIP rooms was extremely rapid. Outside were the spiritual forces of many rank 2 Magi, seemingly extremely curious about the trade between these two people.

However, Leylin nor the Magus had any intentions to reveal anything.

A moment later, rank 2 Magi continued with the exchange and one after another, all sorts of precious and rare items were displayed.

“Next up is a treasure from the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane!”

A lazy voice sounded from the VIP room right smack in the middle.

In a split second, people seemed to even stop breathing, focusing on the VIP room from which this voice was produced.

The secret plane was now a hot topic and all the precious materials from there were sold at a very high price.

Upon hearing that the rank 2 Magus in the VIP room wanted to make a sale, even the few rank 1 Magi downstairs began to whisper amongst themselves after getting over the shock.

“Is it coming?” Kemoyin’s Scales surfaced on Leylin’s skin as he stared hard at the room.

From the information he had gathered, Leylin knew that the rank 2 Magus Alistair had only stolen a treasure from the ruins. What he did not know was that this treasure could display its might only when coupled with another item in the ruins. It could even help a rank 2 Magus to

advance.

With his fervent desire to break through, Leylin could confirm that even if he knew this was a trap, there was a high chance that Alistair would still come charging in.

What appeared on the screen was a concentrated green liquid that formed a ball, floating in mid-air.

“This is the extract of a Wisdom Tree. Its purity is at 5, the highest level. The ancient Wisdom Trees have the intelligence of an enlightened Magus, and its extract has the effect of raising one’s spiritual force. When used with other treasures to break through, it is extremely effective!”

The hall broke out into a large commotion.

Even potions that could help acolytes or rank 1 Magi to increase their spiritual force would result in a mad scramble for them. A precious item like this that could help a rank 2 Magus break through to rank 3 was something that had not ever appeared in the entire south coast.

“Wisdom Tree?”

Understanding flashed in Leylin’s eyes.

“Indeed, only the crystallisation of ancient wisdom like that in the legends has enough spiritual force to help a rank 2 Magus break through.”

In myths and legends, the Wisdom Tree was a very amiable old being, and many famed ancient Magi had received its teachings and enlightenment, and even its blessings and gifts, which helped them to accomplish much.

In the information in ancient texts, Leylin had seen how Magi had received gifts from the Wisdom Tree. After drinking the extract, the Magi were able to break through.

“For rank 2 Magi, just the effects of the extract are hardly enough. It needs to be stored for a period of time, and for this reason, the item in Alistair’s hands is necessary.”

Leylin quickly discovered the entire story. “We’ll just have to see if

Alistair's coming!"

Chapter 279: Lone Wolf

Usually, the extract of the ancient Wisdom Tree would be stored securely in the light Magi headquarters, and there might even be a rank 3 Magus keeping watch over it. It would basically be impossible for Alistair to obtain it.

To lure him out, they had brought the real essence of the ancient tree! That rank 3 Magus had also temporarily left his post.

Magi were not idiots, and Alistair was no exception; before confirming that there was no rank 3 Magus around, he would definitely not appear.

“Alistair’s nickname is Lone Wolf. He’s definitely used to working alone, and has the strength to overpower groups of people. He must have a certain level of confidence and strength!”

To be able to heavily injure two rank 2 Magi in a single move, he himself must be rather difficult to deal with. Leylin was sure about this.

Even within rank 2 Magi, Alistair was definitely above the middle level and might even have reached the peak, and was just a step away from advancing to rank 3!

Once he verified there was no rank 3 Magus here, there was a large possibility that he would attack and attempt to rob this item!

“When that happens, it’s all up to us!”

Leylin surveyed the VIP rooms. How many of the ones inside were dark Magi, and how many were light Magi? How many were like him and harboured ulterior motives?

Evidently, the extract of the Wisdom Tree had attracted the attention of all the rank 2 Magi present.

One after another, spiritual force from multiple Magi, each carrying a strong desire to complete the trade, rushed into the room that Magus was in.

For regular Magi, rank 2 was usually the limit if they did not possess

high-grade meditation techniques. When that happened, Magi's innate spells would have already been finalized, and even if they were to switch to a high-grade meditation technique, it would be impossible to advance further.

To forcefully alter a crystallised core consciousness that had already taken shape required a method that did not exist in the south coast. There were rumours that it could be found in another world or in the central continent, but this was not something that Magi in the south coast would ever have the chance to come into contact with.

Hence, the essence of the Wisdom Tree that could provide enlightenment and help a rank 2 Magus raise their spiritual force was their only hope to being promoted to rank 3!

They were willing to pay any price for this!

While rank 2 Magi in the VIP rooms were fiercely communicating by way of their spiritual force, a voice broke the silence.

"100 million magic crystals, and fifty standard portions of the crystallisation of spirits!"

This voice used no spiritual force and was instead shouted from one's throat. The place where this voice originated made Leylin even more surprised—it was actually from a rank 1 Magus on the lower level.

"Interesting! He's just a rank 1 Magus, but he dares to stick his hand into this contest between rank 2 Magi!"

Leylin sized up the Magi who was shouting with interest.

There was a certain set of rules in private trade meetings like this. Rank 2 Magi formed their own circles, and it was impossible for rank 1 Magi to participate.

This rank 1 Magus actually dared to speak so loudly. If he didn't have outstanding might, then it meant there was a huge organisation backing him!

Or could it be... that their target had appeared?

Leylin focused his attention on this rank 1 Magus. He was of average build and donned a black robe. His face wasn't able to be seen, but under the gazes of numerous rank 2 Magi, he was still able to maintain his composure, "This Lord Rank 2 Magus did not specify any materials, and only stated that the person who can give the most valuable materials will obtain it. I wonder, is what I'm offering of the highest value here?"

For lower ranked Magi, having the attention from rank 2 Magi was like being a weak, frail rabbit that had been dropped into a pride of lions. Most Magi would long since have been scared stupid, yet this rank 1 Magus was still very calm.

"How is it? Can you confirm that it's Alistair?"

In the room of the Magus that Leylin had vied with for the Rays of Dawn, the lady asked the old man, Torp.

"I can't tell for sure!" The old man, Torp, who had a red beard, stroked his chin. "His attire is extremely unfamiliar, and I don't feel the aura of anyone I know. Out of all the people who were invited here, we have the least information about him!"

"That means there's a high possibility that it's him!"

The woman extended a forked tongue and licked her lips.

"It's very possible. Prepare to attack!" Torp nodded, and concealed waves from a spirit imprint began to spread, "Target is suspected to have appeared. Prepare to attack!"

"Alright!" "Understood!" "Clear!"

Different voices sounded in the surrounding VIP rooms.

"Alright!" The place became silent, and the voice of the rank 2 Magus who was selling the extract of the Wisdom Tree was heard from the VIP room.

As he spoke, golden yellow rays of light wrapped around the green extract that was filled with vitality, and it slowly floated out of the VIP room.

“Many thanks, my lord!” A glint of excitement appeared in the eyes of the rank 1 Magus who had bid, and he bowed slightly. A bunch of materials and crystals flew from his body.

The items that were to be traded met in mid-air.

Bang! All of a sudden, fierce red light shone from the green extract. The extremely dazzling red light looked intense, and was very similar to an alert signal!

“It’s him! It’s Alistair!” “Move!”

As if triggering some switch, the VIP rooms belonging to rank 2 Magi exploded. Each and every one of the Magi who had reached rank 2 brazenly showed off their strength, and immense energy waves were constantly produced, causing an earthquake in the surroundings.

“Binding of Azora!” A streak of golden white light fiercely attacked the area where the rank 1 Magus was.

“Awoo!” At this moment, the Magus that was suspected to be Alistair suddenly ripped off the clothes on his chest, revealing fangs and a black tattoo of a huge wolf still dripping blood.

With his roars, a large black wolf leaped out of the Magus’ chest, its large and sharp claws reaching forward!

Bang! Golden yellow binding lights were smashed by the giant claws and were rendered to bits of gold light that quickly dispersed.

“The totem of the giant wolf! It can’t be wrong, this is Alistair!” More Magi charged out of the VIP rooms, streaking towards the rank 1 Magus like sharks that had found their prey.

An immense repressing force field suddenly appeared in the arena of the trade. The wandering rank 1 Magi that had been on the first level quickly retreated, looking pitiful as they left.

Some were even more unfortunate, the powerful spells of Rank 2 Magi having brushed passed them and causing serious injuries.

“Damn it! I shouldn’t have come here!”

A black figure had been caught by the intense red rays and could only dodge pitifully, their body charred over.

The figure's hood was pushed back, revealing the face of the black figure. Surprisingly enough, it was the lady boss who Leylin had seen before, specializing in selling information.

"Damn it! Damn it! Are the leaders of the organisation stupid? Everyone here is a rank 2 Magus! They hid this information from the other Magi and wanted me, a puny rank 1 Magus to coordinate with their plans and go into the lion's den? Did they want me dead?"

Bang! At this moment, the sparks from a huge green fireball brushed past and crashed into buildings behind her. There was even a corroded crater from the aftermath of the attack.

The female Magus was stunned for a second and then ran for the door without looking back. "Damn it, do whatever you want! I don't care anymore!"

Compared to a rank 1 Magus, the spells of rank 2 Magi may not be as flashy, but the strength within were like mountains or seas. Just brushing against an object would cause it to turn to dust.

Ka-cha!

Numerous black figures that were like ancient savage beasts pounced out from the surroundings and sealed all the entrances from which Alistair could escape.

Amongst these Magi were white-haired elderly, grand and dignified ladies, as well haughty gentlemen in formal attire. The common trait between them was the symbol of the Light Magi Alliance on their chests.

"Alistair, you actually dare betray the glory that represents the light Magi! The Supreme Alliance will punish you!"

The red-bearded Torp yelled, and with a wave of his hand, immense flames and lava were produced from his hands, turning into a firey-red hammer.

“Lava Hammer!”

Lava kept boiling at the surface of the red hammer, emitting energy waves that belonged to rank 2 spells.

“Keke! I only temporarily entered the light Magi alliance. All that I have obtained are items I’ve gained through trade. How have I betrayed anyone?”

Alistair, who was in black robes, laughed in a strange manner that sounded like the howls of a wolf.

“This is definitely Alistair’s voice!”

“Go! What else is there to say to traitors who can’t even repent?”

The many rank 2 light Magi roared and colourful spells surrounded Alistair.

The black totem of a large wolf that Alistair had let out quickly turned to dust under the combined attacks of the rank 2 Magi.

Surprisingly, Alistair opened his arms and sneered at the rank 2 Magi that surrounded him.

“I have done no wrong! I need to advance to rank 3, and after that, darkness will eventually descend on this land!”

He chanted words that sounded like a prophecy, and his body began to crack under the continuous onslaught of spells.

Pak! Pak! Black fragments flew in all directions.

“This is... A dark Magus’ corporeal body puppet!”

Noticing that something was not right, Torp immediately yelled, “Beware! This is not Alistair’s real body, but a temporary flesh puppet!”

A ring of lava surrounded the puppet’s body.

Pak pak!

The black fragments from the flesh puppet melted into liquid in midair, forming large black nets that were similar to spiderwebs, which covered all the nearby rank 2 Magi .

Boom!

The roof of the exchange hall shattered, and a Magus that looked exactly the same as the flesh puppet from before emerged from the rubble and dust; he howled at the Magus who was selling the extract of the Wisdom Tree.

“Awoo!”

Faced with the wolf howl, that Magus’ eyes seemed to glaze over, and he seemed to have been temporarily stupified.

“The Howl of the Lone Wolf!”

“Alistair’s unique mental attack!”

The rank 2 Magi who were trapped let out expressions of immense hatred.

Chapter 280: Rank 3

However, it was too late.

With a sly grin on his face, Alistair suddenly transformed.

Muscles bulged, and thick, coarse fur that was characteristic of wolves covered his body. Fangs grew, and there was even fur on his face. Even his ears had turned into those of a wolf!

He threw himself forward, and in that moment, he turned into a werewolf!

Pak! Sharp wolf claws twisted in the air, and a rank 2 Magus' head was smashed into pieces. Red and white brain juices spilled all over the ground.

The large werewolf did not stop and fished out a vial of green liquid from the corpse. His eyes revealed craziness along with his elation, and he was prepared to jump and leave the area.

“Alistair!”

At this moment, the announcer, who had retreated to the sidelines, suddenly stood forward.

Under white rays of light, the announcer's body underwent a huge change.

His face became elongated, and a white beard dragged across the ground.

An overwhelming, tremendous, and unparalleled spiritual force descended onto the area.

“Giant Tree!” As the old man spoke, a huge plant suddenly grew from the center of the platform. The thick vines on the tree constantly extended, even crushing firm rocks into powder.

The huge tree blocked the entrance at the top, giving the werewolf no routes to escape.

“Awoo...” The werewolf that Alistair had transformed into howled at the

old man.

“A rank 3 light Magus!” Leylin, who was in a VIP room, widened his eyes in surprise.

This was the first time that he had seen someone at the most powerful rank amongst the light Magi!

A rank 3 Magus was the absolute peak in the south coast! They were indomitable powers that controlled both the dark and light Magi.

The moment this light Magus attacked, magnificent and splendid life spells ignited within the auction area.

The wooden tables and chairs seemed to grow lives of their own, spores growing on their surfaces and turning into vines and plants.

In that instant, the entire area turned into a green plant heaven, with the giant, ancient tree right in the centre. It reigned like an emperor, standing tall and unyielding.

“When plant-type spells reach this level, it’s already touching the surface of being a ‘domain’...” Leylin, who had the guidance of the Book of Giant Serpent, had foresight that far surpassed all the rank 2 Magi present. He was able to recognise how remarkable this rank 3 Magus was.

“But... plant-type? This somehow feels very familiar!”

Dark energy particles exploded in Leylin’s hands, and the green plants in the VIP room instantly turned to dust.

This rank 3 spell immediately made him think of Reynold, the rank 2 Magus from Four Seasons Garden. Whether in terms of spells or aura, they were much too similar.

“Could it be that this rank 3 Magus is Reynold’s mentor or relative?”

With this thought, all of Leylin’s plans to participate disappeared.

In the auction hall, there were very few Magi who had chosen to just observe without lifting a finger.

There were two or three Magi in VIP rooms that still maintained their

silence, not planning to do anything.

Alistair had dared to utilise a flesh puppet to hinder the light Magi, even risking his life to steal the essence from the Wisdom Tree. Furthermore, he had almost succeeded.

Leylin could not help but be in awe at his decisiveness and patience.

It was a pity that with the suppression by a rank 3 Magus, any plans were all in vain.

No matter how well Alistair was able to deal with rank 2 Magi, he was definitely not a match for a rank 3 Magus.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

Within the boundaries of the green plants, the large black nets of mucus were quickly broken through by the many vines from all sorts of plants. The rank 2 Magi that struggled free quickly assembled behind the rank 3 Magus and secretly dispersed, trapping Alistair, who had turned into a werewolf, in the middle.

The furry werewolf in the middle kept howling at the Magi, a cunning look glinting in his eyes.

“Hm, something’s wrong!”

Leylin suddenly found an issue. Alistair, who was being surrounded, was much too calm about his current situation.

“Grab him!” The rank 3 Magus whose beard reached the ground seemed to have noticed something. His brows furrowed, and he quickly commanded the Magi behind him.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Several streaks of translucent magic arrows cut through the skies and produced whistling sounds, causing several Magi’s heads to explode.

Bang! Bang! A few light Magi immediately collapsed.

“What’s going on?” The light Magi around quickly retreated, all sorts of innate defensive spells flashing and appearing on their bodies.

Unfortunately, this was all useless!

The translucent arrows seemed to possess some terrifying magical power, and even the defences that rank 2 Magi spent all their energy on could not withstand them at all.

“Greta Abyssal Arrow? Fedlan, it’s you!”

The rank 3 light Magus roared in surprise, and green rays of light were produced from the foliage. Under the green rays, the green vines turned into large hands that seemed to break through space and appear in front of the translucent arrows, cancelling each other out.

The light Magi that had survived stuck close to the rank 3 light Magus, surveying their surroundings fearfully.

“You dark Magi actually dare betray the contract with the alliance. Aren’t you afraid of punishment?”

The rank 3 old light Magus seemed to know his opponent’s identity and immediately exclaimed.

“Hehe! Light Magi, the contract with the alliance—they’ve long since become things of the past! From hereon, darkness shall unify the continent!”

Along with the strange laughter, a dark green figure suddenly appeared within the auction hall.

After the figure appeared, green fluids and light rays began to take over half of the area, competing with the plant domain of the light Magi.

There were immense energy waves emitted from the body of the dark green figure that were on par with a rank 3 Magus.

“Hoduke, my old friend, isn’t it obvious? The continuous betrayal and fall of rank 2 Magi implies that there’s a large issue with your light Magi’s values. Only dark Magi are qualified to rule the south coast!”

The dark green figure seemed to be narrating some sort of insignificant issue, but the faces of the light Magus who heard this immediately underwent a violent change!

With the huge temptation of the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, as well as the continuous damage dealt to the light Magi alliance, the dark Magi finally decided to break this fragile balance and bring war to the rest of the south coast!

"Come out!"

Shua shua! As the dark Magus spoke, a few figures suddenly appeared in the middle of the hall.

All these people had used black headcovers to cover their face, and there was an overpowering scent of blood on their bodies. On top of that, the energy waves they emitted were not lower than that of a rank 2 Magus!

Upon seeing this, the rank 3 light Magus' expression worsened.

Rumble! Black mucus reached the heart of the giant tree, and covered by white gas, the tree shriveled up at a rate that could be seen by the naked eye. Eventually, it toppled and revealed a black rock with a hole in it.

"Let's go! Don't forget our agreement!" Fedlan spoke to Alistair, who was still in his werewolf form.

"Awoo!" The werewolf howled at Fedlan a few times as if in reply, jumped into the black hole that was a passageway and then vanished.

"The essence of the Wisdom Tree is extremely precious. They absolutely can't gain possession of it!"

Hoduke, whose beard touched the ground, turned pale. Upon seeing that Alistair had fled, he quickly ordered the Magi behind him, "I'll hold back the dark Magi. You need to get the essence back!"

As a rank 3 Magus, Hoduke was well read and knew that the dark Magi were not very prepared. Whilst they were at a huge disadvantage, they couldn't just let Alistair leave.

If not, it wasn't going to be just the problem of losing a few rank 2 light Magi. This was a matter of imbalance of power between rank 3 Magi!

A portion of the extract of the Wisdom Tree might not be enough to help a rank 2 Magus break through, but with the treasure in Alistair's

hands, it was a real possibility.

Hoduke knew very well that the treasure in Alistair's hands would create a heaven-defying effect when paired with the essence of the Wisdom Tree.

"My old friend, we haven't exchanged blows in two hundred years. I wonder what kind of changes your Wailing Earth technique has undergone!"

Hoduke muttered, while the power from vegetation began to vibrate.

"Hehe! Twenty years ago, I finally succeeded in my experiments and refined three thousand pure blooded Quarks, and I blended their innate talents into Wailing Earth. I'm sure the result will not leave you disappointed."

Fedlan laughed again. A huge phantom image filled with skulls and gravestones appeared, and it struck against the green mirage filled with plants.

"Is this the domain of rank 3 Magi?"

Leylin observed the two rank 3 Magi exchanging blows and commanded the A.I. Chip to record everything down carefully.

Battles between two rank 3 Magi were very rarely seen, so this was extremely precious information.

Leylin, who possessed Kemoyin's Pupil, the Book of Giant Serpent, as well as much information from the Four Seasons Garden, naturally knew that the power displayed by these two rank 3 Magi was still not a true "Domain".

A real domain was a terrifying might that only rank 4 Morning Star Magi would be able to produce.

In a domain, all Magi who were weaker than rank 4 would have their abilities suppressed by a few levels, perhaps even to the point that they became like regular humans.

These two rank 3 Magi were only able to grasp a hint of this concept, and lacked the terrifying ability to suppress a Magus' might!

However, now that he had been forced into these two rank 3 Magi's "Domains," Leylin couldn't help but emit a few large darkness elemental runes, as if wanting to have a standoff with the domains.

"The domains of these two rank 3 Magi are already beginning to affect the Magi around them. Though the effect is very slight, it still isn't weak enough to be ignored."

Leylin gave the two figures, who were now hard to differentiate, a long look, and stood without any hesitation.

Chapter 281: Sage

“Shadow Stealth!”

After standing up, Leylin used the spell that had the most outstanding concealing abilities out of all of the the rank 1 dark elemental magic he knew.

With the added bonus from his solidified spiritual force as a rank 2 Magus, Shadow Stealth was now terrifyingly formidable.

Leylin’s figure disappeared from the VIP room in an instant, such that even the rank 2 Magi outside were not able to detect him.

“Alistair actually sided with the dark Magi. With him as the leading cause, this sets the background for the Third Magus War.”

Leylin was unmoved by this, his body like a mirage as he hurried along.

“He’s not my business anyway. I just need to know if he has anything I need in his possession!”

The essence from the Wisdom Tree must have some extraordinary effects for ancient Magi to view it so highly.

Though Leylin possessed a high-grade meditation technique, he wouldn’t mind some extra assurance for when he wanted to break through.

Boom!

Alistair leapt, his powerful hind legs leaving behind two deep pits in the ground.

With much momentum, he fiercely jumped out of the hole and began to run wildly on the field.

“He’s over there!”

Following closely behind him was that group of rank 2 Magi from the light Magi alliance. Upon seeing the situation, the leader immediately waved his sleeve!

Weng weng!

A concentrated volley of countless bugs was produced from his sleeves, and immediately after, a huge grey cloud floated out from the large sleeves of his robes.

Upon closer inspection, this 'cloud' was actually comprised of many densely packed bugs.

These bugs had two compound eyes, and their mandibles were fierce and sharp. A pair of translucent wings flapped at a high frequency, producing waves of an ear-piercing sound that would cause one to feel fidgety.

"Go!" This light Magus pointed at Alistair.

The bugs chirped in a way that shook the heavens, forming the image of a human face without eyes, and chased after Alistair, who was currently still in his werewolf form.

The huge human face streaked across the sky, looking like a black cloud of gas in the air. It quickly caught up to the werewolf who was fleeing, opened its mouth, and roared at him.

"Awoooo!" The werewolf faced the heavens and howled, gathering two large masses of wind-elemental energy particles that turned into wind blades, one horizontal and the other vertical. It turned into a huge cross shape, and chopped towards the human face in the air.

The wind blade trembled slightly as it streaked past the face. In that moment, the bugs scattered and then regrouped, completely unharmed by the attack.

"Chi chi..." Along with the cries from the numerous bugs, a great grey 'flood' was spat out from the human face, which engulfed the werewolf within.

Upon closer inspection, within the 'flood' were several worms that were even tinier than most insects, their sharp mouths glinting with light.

Chi chi!!!

The grey worms wrapped around the werewolf in an instant, and the horrifying sounds of something being gnawed into were heard.

“Woo woo...” From within the grey worms, the werewolf’s pitiful howls could be heard.

“Alright! Now that he’s been caught by the Death Insects, he can’t run!”

The light Magus who manipulated the worms grinned, “Go, get him! Steal the treasure and essence of the Wisdom Tree!”

“As expected from the ‘Death Bug Manipulator’, Jajone!” The rank 2 Magi following him exclaimed in admiration and hastened towards their target.

At this moment, a beautiful melody from a recorder travelled from some distance away.

The formless sound waves swept through the area, and swarms of grey bugs fell one after another.

Boom! The surface of the earth cracked open, and two rank 2 Magi donning the robes of the dark Magi rushed out, accompanied by two huge white fireballs striking the human face in the air.

“Ah...” The human face emitted a sound similar to the shrieks of a female, and the face then began to distort.

In merely a couple of seconds, the face was shrouded with white flames, and large groups of Death Bugs dropped.

“It looks like you’ve long since sided with the dark Magi!”

The huge face formed out of bugs seemed to be connected to the spiritual force of the light Magus; after it had been burnt through, he visibly paled.

However, he cared not about his injuries, and instead focused his attention on Alistair, who had escaped from the attack of the worms.

The werewolf was now in a pitiful state. More than half of the pretty fur on his body had disappeared, revealing patches of pink skin and flesh.

On his body were some very large wounds, revealing muscle tissue that had been severely damaged. One could even see bone.

Chi chi! The blood vessels and muscles visible on the wounds constantly wriggled, and layers of flesh covered the injury and stopped the flow of fresh blood. At areas which were barren of fur, a fine layer of fur began to grow.

The abnormal healing ability of werewolf exhibited its strength here.

“Let’s go!” With a wave from a rank 2 dark Magus, countless white ribs and bone spurs appeared in front of the light Magi, forming a large wall.

The wall seemed to have a life of its own, cunningly moving and trapping the light Magi within.

Then, with Alistair in tow, the two dark Magi left.

Bang! Bang!

From within the white bone cage, the dull thuds of people ramming into the cage were heard. One after another, hemisphere-like shapes appeared all around the cage, and around these shapes were even some minute cracks.

These cracks increased in size, and eventually, the cage exploded open!

The white dust from the broken spurs dissipated, revealing the figures of a few light Magi.

“There are still rank 2 dark Magi reinforcements! The situation is getting more troublesome! Send out the signal!”

The Magus who was the leader of the light Magi roared.

A Magus nodded and swiped upwards, and a shooting star with alternating red and green colours streaked through the sky.

Xiu xiu xiu!

Minutes later, thirteen Magi in black robes with iron crowns on their heads arrived at the scene.

“Alistair has already sided with the dark Magi. There’s now a rank 3 Magus holding Lord Hoduke back, and there are also two dark Magi who took Alistair away!”

The light Magus looked to be in a difficult position.

“It’s the same situation that we are in! Don’t worry though. We’ve sprinkled large amounts of the pollen of the Nine Threaded Flower at the auction area. As long as he was there, he’ll definitely be unable to escape the pursuit of the Patchy Bees.”

A Magus whose crown was a lot larger than everyone else answered.

“We are extremely confident in the setup of the Great Sage.” The leader of the light Magi bowed, displaying his respect towards the sage.

These thirteen Magi were actually sages of Iron Crown, and were absolute existences in terms of their might!

Their neutral stance also caused the light Magus leader to have to do away with his haughty attitude.

“Now that the dark Magi are also involved, we may not be able to provide you with more help. You know that the very reason why we have been able to maintain our reputations as towering existences is our neutral stance!”

The Great Sage continued.

“Great Sage...” The leader of the light Magi’s face fell, and turned icy. “We signed a contract stating that you would pursue Alistair. What do you mean by those words, Great Sage?”

“But... what about the dark Magi?” The Great Sage looked to be in a difficult position. Meanwhile, the leader of the light Magi had a vile look on his face.

“Just attack. We will take on the pressure from the dark Magi. The conditions in the contract we agreed on can be altered, and I can even concede on some matters...”

The leader was silent for a moment and then chose to make a

compromise.

Besides, they did not have much time left.

After hearing this, the Great Sage of Iron Crown smiled, looking as if a weight had been lifted off his shoulders.

He produced a transparent glass bottle from within his robes, a creature with numerous compound eyes at the centre within the bottle. This creature looked like a bee with an image of a black eye on its yellow wings, and was quietly resting within the glass bottle. Traces of intelligence and quick-wittedness flashed through its eyes.

The Great Sage opened the neck of the bottle, and after flying in circles a few times, the little creature, the Patchy Bee, began to fly in a certain direction.

“It has found them!” the Great Sage exclaimed, dense metal plating appearing on his body and forming the armour that Knights usually wore into battle.

Bang!

The white skeleton of a large horse rose from the ground, green spiritual flames burning in its eye sockets and being snorted from its nostrils.

“My old buddy, I’ll have to use you again!” The sage in armour stroked an old and tattered pair of reins and sighed with regret.

He fiercely rode the skeletal horse, and roared from deep within his throat. “Iron Crown!”

“Glory for life! Advance for our responsibilities!” The sages present answered in a loud voice.

The skeletal warhorse neighed, and black liquid metal covered the entire body of the horse. In an instant, the skeletal warhorse turned into a giant metallic beast with sharp barbs protruding from the surface of its body.

Lu Lu!

One after another, metallic warhorses struggled out of the ground and carried the other sages. Some of the sages wore dazzling magic robes,

while others donned metallic armour. Powerful spells were sent out in a constant stream.

In an instant the thirteen sages with iron crowns turned into Steel Knights possessing immense power!

“Chase after them!”

Following the orders of the Great Sage, the thirteen warhorses charged forward, leaving behind traces of burning hoofprints.

“The inheritance from ancient Magi! This is definitely a branch of the ancient Magi!”

The light Magi’s eyelids twitched as they uttered these words in their hearts.

In the south coast, there was a rumour floating around about the Magi organisation with a neutral stance, Iron Crown. These thirteen sages of Iron Crown had received the power of the inheritance from some ancient ruins, and were henceforth able to set up and establish Iron Crown!

Chapter 282: Obstruction

“A full body armour, and a spirit animal with formidable attack power as a mount!”

The light Magus mumbled to himself.

“This must be the inheritance from the ancient Steel Knights!” Beside him, another light Magus sighed in admiration.

“In ancient times, Magi were able to obtain very abundant resources. Even high-grade meditation techniques weren’t anything special, and mere official Magi were able to obtain them as well! Many Magi discarded all prejudices they had towards factions and sects, learning and improving together. They even formed a huge alliance, conquering one world after another! That was the golden era of the Magi!”

He repeated, eyes burning with fervent passion.

“But for some reason, the ancient Magi received some huge blow, and historians made a conjecture that there was a world that was especially strong, and our Magus World’s attack on them was thwarted.”

“In order to prevent the war from spreading to our world, the ancient Magi made the painful decision to close the channel that connected them to this world, and sealed the other channels that were connected to other worlds. Even then, the ancient Magi who had suffered greatly lost their ability to pass on their abilities, and eventually declined.”

The leader of the light Magi sighed ruefully and then narrated this history like it was some ancient poem.

“Even if Magi were able to receive the inheritance from ancient Magi, they still lacked some of the required materials from other worlds, which made it impossible for them to progress!”

“Hence, the Magi of today now use meditation techniques to progress, because this is the best route, and many could use the experiences of their seniors to advance. The ancient Magi who had acquired the inheritances were extremely pitiful. If they were lucky, they were able to find resources

that were compatible with their bodies and improve, but most of them were stuck at rank 1 for their whole life.”

The Leader said.

“The ancient Steel Knights are said to be from a world close to us. It’s a specific profession unique to the Steel Lava world. After conquering that world, the ancient Magi altered our bodies with some methods, which resulted in the special state of evolution that the Steel Knights can achieve. Without an enormous amount of luck, their strength will stay at this point forever, so you don’t have to envy them.”

“What should we do now? Should we proceed at a faster pace?”

A Magus with an inverted crimson cross in his eyes asked.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

While travelling, the rank 2 Magi used their minds to continue their conversation.

With the help of their solidified spiritual force, their thoughts were processed at a rate many times faster than that of a rank 1 Magus. With just a wave of spiritual force, large amounts of images and words could be contained within.

“No! We’re going to slow down!”

With a cold glint in his eyes, the leader of the light Magi slowed.

“Just let those Iron Crown Steel Knights charge at the frontlines!”

“A portion of the essence of the Wisdom Tree and that treasure should be enough to motivate them to go all out! We’ll follow behind them.”

The leader exclaimed coldly.

This was actually a ploy. The Steel Knights were well aware that the light Magi might take advantage of them by following them behind, but under the temptation of the treasures, they still chose to pursue their targets.

As for the contract with the light Magi? If they really managed to obtain treasure, the light Magi would pay a large amount for it anyway.

These Steel Knights were very confident in their abilities, they were sure that they would be able to end the battle before the light Magi arrived!

Alistair and the dark Magi who were fleeing at the front also stopped at this point.

In front of them, a figure suddenly appeared out of thin air and blocked their path.

This man looked to be extremely plain, and if he were ever to be in a crowd, he would be difficult to be picked out. However, he had the unique energy waves that belonged to rank 2 Magi, causing the three's faces to change.

"Hand over the essence of the Wisdom Tree and the treasure you possess!"

The middle-aged man sounded extremely haughty, taking a large gulp from the flask at his side and looking unperturbed.

"You..." The two dark Magi behind Alistair became extremely annoyed. So what if this middle-aged man was a rank 2 Magus? They had three Magi who had reached rank 2!

"Awoo!" Alistair's answer was extremely simple, howling at Leylin. His face, which had already turned into that of a half-wolf, produced an angry expression as he pounced towards Leylin.

Pu pu! While running, he opened his mouth and two balls of giant wind-elemental energy particles flew towards Leylin like explosives.

Meanwhile, the werewolf seemed to transform into wind and hid in the intense draft, approaching Leylin like a hurricane, his sharp claws filled with an iciness and bloodlust.

"The second stage of beast transformation!" Leylin focused on the werewolf who was nearing him, blue lights occasionally flashing in his eyes.

With a sweep of his right arm, red powder spread in the air.

"Scorching Touch!"

Two streaks that brought about intense heat penetrated the wind elemental energy balls and shot towards the werewolf!

“Awool!” Alistair howled repeatedly, his body constantly changing directions.

However, the two lines of Scorching Touch seemed to have a navigation system and turned a circle in the air, blocking the werewolf’s path. Based on the drills from the simulations performed by the A.I. Chip, the way in which Leylin was using the Scorching Touch was similar in familiarity to one who had been analyzing it for decades. He had even researched and created a few tiny tricks that were uniquely his.

“Woo!” The werewolf tried his best to dodge the attack on his chest, but instead, his right arm was directly struck by the red ray of light.

Alistair howled, a furry arm with a claw on it flying away.

“Bind!”

Leylin stretched his arms forward, and slight shadows formed two black figures that twined around Alistair, who had now lost an arm.

“Come help!”

Bang! Under the pester of the shadows, Alistair was forced to undo his werewolf transformation and roared, producing the voice of a human.

The two dark Magi with him exchanged gazes, and suddenly made their move!

A bald Magus placed his hands on the ground, chanting a few mournful-sounding incantations that sounded like the howls of a spirit seeking vengeance.

Chi chi! A black thorny bone spur forest suddenly emerged from the surface of the ground.

Whether rocks or plants, they were all penetrated through by these black bone spurs.

The thorny bone spur forest increased in area, its blackness approaching Leylin.

Bo! Bo! The two black figures were pierced by the bone spurs, but it did not hurt even a hair on Alistair's body.

"Hehe, Siley, you did well!"

Another dark Magus laughed, and the black rod in his arms extended.

"Spirits laying silent in the Weeping Abyss, come back to life,!"

A green fireball suddenly formed in front of the black rod and exploded, turning into starry specks that shot into the bone spur forest.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The black bone spurs Siley had summoned forth levitated, forming thousands of large skeletal soldiers holding bone nail hammers and white giant hatchets, charging towards Leylin.

"A combination spell!"

Leylin cried out involuntarily. Within rank 2 spells, if the spells displayed by two Magi were similar in terms of their effects, there could be a combo effect if they utilized secret methods that allowed them to combine attacks. This type of magic would then be called a combination spell, and its power far exceeded that of regular rank 2 spells!

However, there were few rank 2 Magi whose body and spiritual force were at a similar level. The conditions for releasing this type of magic were very harsh, and there was only a small number of Magi who fit the requirements. Leylin never imagined that he would get to see this.

Bang!

The large white nail hammer slammed down, bringing with it the ear-piercing sounds of an explosion. The air nearby seemed to have its pressure sucked away by the strong wind, and Leylin momentarily felt suffocated.

[Estimated might of target's purely physical attack: 90 degrees!] The A.I. Chip provided in time.

Leylin dodged the hammer, and a red layer appeared on the surface of his body. "Purely physical attack? Does that mean there's still a magical

attack?”

“Ga ga!” At this moment, a large skeletal soldier that saw Leylin escaping opened its mouth.

Multiple white bone spurs flew powerfully like white raindrops, covering all the areas that Leylin was planning on retreating to.

Rumble! The white bone spurs slammed into the layer on Leylin’s body and then exploded.

The immense energy waves wreaked havoc on the red layer, and the rays flickered inconsistently, illustrating its difficulty in withstanding this attack.

“Ga ga!”

Behind that skeletal soldier, large groups of soldiers began to shoot out spurs as well.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

Under their attacks, the red protective layer on the surface of Leylin’s skin shattered loudly.

Bang! Bang!

Large amounts of black, densely-packed scales appeared as his body was thrown a long distance away by the undulations from the explosion.

Yellow rays flashed as the shape-shifting effects were destroyed, revealing Leylin’s true appearance.

“Latent Fireball!” “Scorching Touch!”

Red and black flames extended, and the bone spurs that filled the skies were burnt to ashes.

“Black flames? You-You’re Leylin!”

The bald Magus who produced the black bone spurs couldn’t help but exclaim, stunned.

“Long time no see, Director Siley!”

Leylin grinned as he greeted Siley.

“Siley! Is this the student that betrayed your academy? He’s actually advanced to rank 2!”

The rank 2 Magus who cooperated with Siley gained interest as he looked Leylin up and down, “He’s quite talented!”

Chapter 283: Goodbye

“Leylin, do you also wish to obtain the extract from the Wisdom Tree?”

Siley looked at what could be said to be the most outstanding student in the history of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, a complicated expression on his face.

On one hand, there was no need to prove Leylin’s talent as a Magus. To be able to advance to rank 2 at such an age and at such a speed was something rarely seen in recent years of Magus history.

Siley believed if Leylin could maintain this rate, it was definitely possible for him to become a rank 3 Magus before he turned a hundred, and advance to the most powerful ranking in the entire south coast! If he was still in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the school would definitely be in its golden age.

On the other hand, Leylin had already betrayed the academy, and his fierce strike back had resulted in the death of Marb, the elder of the Lilytell family, one of the three large families in the academy. He had even killed off a large number of rank 1 Magi, causing the Lilytell family’s power to decline by a large amount and almost have their name removed from the Magus World!

Hence, Siley had many thoughts regarding Leylin’s appearance.

“Yes, director!”

Since his shapeshifting spell had already been removed, Leylin no longer had anything to hide.

“I hope you don’t interfere, as the essence of the Wisdom Tree and the treasure Alistair obtained are items that I need!” Leylin bowed slightly.

Looking back on things, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had treated him quite well, not taking into account the actions of the Lilytell Family. They had abided by the basic principle of trading using equal values, allowing Leylin to be enlightened as a Magus and walk the path of the strong.

Hence, unless there were some special circumstances, he did not wish to exchange blows with Siley.

“How arrogant! You’re just a newly advanced rank 2 Magus, and yet, you actually dare...”

Before Siley had the chance to react, the dark Magus with him had already furiously lashed out.

In his eyes, no matter how much of a genius Leylin was, he had only just advanced. Though he had the terrifying battle achievement of killing two rank 2 Magi, who knew if he had taken advantage of the situation and killed them while they were seriously injured?

Hence, his attitude towards Leylin was a little too much.

“Young man, let a senior like me teach you how you should act in the circle of rank 2 Magi.”

Two masses of black rays were produced from this rank 2 Magus’ hands, forming a skull.

“What pointless preachings! How bothersome!”

Leylin muttered to himself, the red in his eyes becoming increasingly intense. On his wrist, the transparent crystal had begun to emit a dim red colour.

“What did you say?” The rank 2 Magi who was speaking was startled.

“I said you should do something about your habit of preaching. Otherwise, I don’t think you’ll live to see the sun tomorrow!”

Leylin suddenly raised his head, smiling brilliantly.

Tss tss!

Large amounts of white smoke poured out of the body of one of the large skeletal soldiers from before. Suddenly, the frame of the soldier scattered, turning into a pile of bones on the ground. The fragmented bones were corroded again, and ended up as a pile of black powder.

From a circle of charred earth, corrosion began to spread in all

directions with Leylin at the centre of it all, the grass rotting in an instant and turning into something similar to mud.

Numerous bugs fell to the ground, and a mole flipped over, body stiff as it lay upside down, rotting.

As if the Grim Reaper had arrived, the entire region sank into deathly stillness.

Slam! Thud!

One after another, the large skeletal soldiers fell, their frames falling apart as they turned into powder.

“You used a poison attack that affects a large area!” Alistair was already injured from before, and under the powerful attack of Leylin’s Toxic Bile, his right arm began to fester.

Alistair looked miserable as he gritted his teeth, producing a test tube and pouring it on the wound on his right arm.

Rumble! A tongue of flames covered the area down from his right shoulder, and the smell of flesh burning was produced.

Alistair grimaced. After the flames disappeared, blood was no longer flowing freely from the wound on his shoulder, and the festering from before had disappeared.

“Go! I’ll stay behind and teach him a lesson!”

The dark Magus exclaimed coldly, with a hint of bloodlust.

“Alright! Be careful of the light Magi, I suspect that they have made some agreement with Iron Crown.”

Alistair quickly replied, moving to ride a magnificent flying carpet that appeared from his body.

All of a sudden, his eyes glazed over and he fainted!

Bang! Alistair’s body hit the ground; there were mysterious black patterns that looked like snakes slithering on his face.

Even the flame potion from earlier was unable to deal with the toxins!

“What ferocious neurotoxins! It can lie dormant before it completely flares up! This is bad!”

The expression of the dark Magus who found Leylin a nuisance changed vastly.

Immediately after, a pitch black gas surrounded his body.

The toxins of the terrifying ancient beast, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, began to corrode his body and spirit!

“I told you before. You can’t stop me!”

Like a Grim Reaper that had descended to Earth, the phantom image of a huge python appeared behind Leylin as he headed straight for Alistair, who was in a dead faint. After taking the essence of the Wisdom Tree from his lap, Leylin went through the pouch on Alistair’s waist, and dug out a crudely made wooden cup.

The surface of this cup was an aged dark yellow, with the unique lines of the ancient tree. It also produced the slightly sweet smell of vegetation.

Though the appearance was nothing spectacular, Leylin could feel a very ancient and aged aura.

Even if it was an inanimate object, the cup still gave off a feeling of intelligence.

“This is... a wooden cup made from the bark of the Wisdom Tree!”

Leylin touched his chin. The reason why he was so sure was that besides the A.I. Chip’s tests and his own conjectures, the essence of the Wisdom Tree he now possessed was beginning to emit a slight green lustre, which was a huge indicator.

Bo!

Leylin relaxed his right hand, and the green bundle of light disappeared into the wooden cup.

Like ice melting, the extract of the ancient tree and the wooden cup fused together. The cup was instantly covered by a layer of green light, and the inside of the cup was filled halfway with a transparent liquid. This

liquid emanated an aura of vitality and intelligence.

Leylin sniffed the liquid for a moment and felt his mind clearing. The usual myriad of thoughts that went through his mind kept appearing, and the questions that he had been faced with while training began to be solved, causing him to feel more open-minded.

“Is this enlightenment?”

Joy appeared on Leylin’s face, and a layer of light from his hands sealed the cup.

“The ancient Wisdom Tree! It truly is the crystallization of ancient intelligence! Just breathing in a little resulted in such a dramatic effect. What will happen if I use it all?”

A fiery look appeared on Leylin’s expression, and with a flash of silver light from his hands, the wooden cup and the essence within disappeared.

“Unexpectedly, the person who had been a student has already surpassed me!”

Siley was also surrounded by a layer of black gas. While glancing at Leylin, a bitter smile appeared.

With the corrosion from the toxins, neither he nor his partner was able to exhibit even 70% of their true strength. Even if they worked together, it would still be difficult to win against Leylin.

The dark Magus who did not like Leylin had long since fled, body flashing with the energy waves of spells used to dispel toxins.

Unfortunately, the black poison became denser, and did not seem to be able to be removed.

At the thought of what he had said, this dark Magus’ face turned red. Thankfully, his face had been completely obscured by the black gas, so nobody could see what sort of expression he had.

Seeing Leylin holding the target of their mission, this dark Magus had all sorts of thoughts and his lips twitched, but in the end, he didn’t say anything .

Leylin's might far exceeded his expectations. He was basically at the level of the elite within rank 2 Magi, and he or Siley were unable to handle him by themselves. Attempting to fight may incur the hatred of their opponent, as well as cause more unnecessary deaths.

Dark Magi were very shrewd people. Even if he was able to hold onto the essence of the Wisdom Tree, there was no way he would have the chance to use it for himself. Why would any dark Magus risk their lives for it then?

Leylin naturally did not know about the complex thoughts running through their minds. Based on experience, however, he was largely able to guess their train of thought.

Hence, after nodding briefly towards Siley, he turned to leave.

Step! Step!

The sounds of the hoof steps of horses constantly sounded, and from the horizon a distance away, a team of Steel Knights appeared.

Though there were just thirteen people there, the knights were like a flood of steel that was charging towards them.

"It's the thirteen sages of Iron Crown, who form the Steel Knight Squad!"

Siley gulped, "Since when did they work together with light Magi? Or was this just a simple dispatchment?"

At this point, he couldn't help but chance a glance at Leylin.

Their target could only be Leylin, who had stolen the essence.

Lu lu!

Thirteen giant steel beasts that spewed out flames and had green light in their eyes stopped before the group. They fanned out and surrounded the Magi.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha! The leader's helmet automatically opened, revealing the face of the Great Sage. "Who has the essence of the Wisdom Tree?"

He looked around with suspicion.

Their target, Alistair, was now collapsed on the floor, and nobody knew if he was alive or dead. There was a high possibility that the essence had been divided amongst the Magi here, or had been stolen. He naturally did not recognise Leylin, who had only just showed up.

What made him the most annoyed was that all of the Magi present were staring at him the way they would a dead man.

Chapter 284: Prowess

“What’s going on?”

The Great Sage was surprised, and all of a sudden, his body lost all its strength.

Boom! Multiple steel creatures fell to the ground; the spirit flames in their black eye sockets died out. In a few seconds, they turned into dried up bones once again.

“Old friend!” The Great Sage wailed sorrowfully. His connection with his steed had been completely severed. In other words, the spirit of his companion of many years had been destroyed and no longer existed in this world.

“Who is it?” His eyes turned red.

That dark Magus and Siley turned in the same direction to look at Leylin, who had a helpless look on his face.

“It’s you!” The Great Sage’s face began to twitch. “You wretched trash! You dare...”

“How pointless!” Solidified blood-red rays shot out of Leylin’s eyes, and the red light on his wrist was now extremely intense, to the point that it hit its limit. Bang! The early alert warning system crystal exploded, turning into sparkling powder.

“Shadow Domain!”

“Toxic Bile!”

Total blackness filled the entire region, and behind Leylin, a large number of shadows that looked like snakes forming the terrifying features of a Devil King.

The large shadow was like a beast that swallowed everything as it spread, the terrifying sounds of corrosion and the low huffs of those meeting the face of death sounding at the centre.

Bang!

A moment later, the black shadow disappeared, leaving the thirteen sages with no light in their eyes as they collapsed. Even the spirits in their bodies had been eaten through by the poison.

“Demonic Poison King! It’s Demonic Poison King Leylin!”

In an area not too far away, the few light Magi who were planning to take advantage of the decision turned pale in fear at the rotted corpses under the black mist.

Though they had heard of Leylin’s nickname as the Demonic Poison King before, they had never understood how terrifying he could be.

“Ley-Leylin, you...”

Not just that dark Magus, even Siley was a little stunned as he looked at Leylin, whose eyes were still shooting out blood-red rays.

The thirteen sages of the Iron Crown were a firm force that had been safeguarding this region. Every one of them had the strength of a peak rank 1 Magus, and their leader, the Great Sage, was even at rank 2!

Siley knew that if he were to be trapped by this group, things would very very troublesome. Even fleeing would be an issue. The terrifying vitality of the spirit beasts was something that Magi who developed their strengths based on spells were unable to contend against.

Now, however, this little group of Steel Knights that had been around for hundreds of years had died, just like that? And their killer was a newly-advanced rank 2 Magus, Leylin?

Siley scratched his bald head, wondering if he had been caught in some Rank 3 Magus’ illusion.

“Who else is there?”

Leylin’s expression was a little strange and he began to roar, the blood-red in his eyes more prominent as they swept in the direction where the light Magi were hidden.

“This is bad! He’s found us!”

The leader whispered softly, and the entire group rapidly withdrew a

large distance. It couldn't be helped! Leylin's poisonous attack that could affect a large area had terrified them.

"Hah..."

Leylin's current situation was not good. Not only were there a few small wounds left behind by the retaliation of the Steel Knights, his expression was also crazed. White streams of air exited from his orifices.

[Liveliness of blood cells in host's body has exceeded threshold!
Beginning procedure to forcefully control situation!]

All of a sudden, a flash of bright blue rays covered Leylin's body, and his body temperature lowered. The white mist condensed into fragments of ice inside and scattered all over Leylin's body.

"Damn it, I got emotional again!"

Under the control of the A.I. Chip and the stimulus from the biting cold, Leylin was finally able to regain his senses, eyes flashing with intelligence.

"I can't fight anymore, or else I'll descend into a crazed state and go on a killing rampage till I die..."

Leylin surveyed the area, keeping the sight of the battlefield in his mind.

Though walking the path of a warlock with a bloodline allowed him to possess an incredible might, to the point that he could use his innate talents from his bloodline to achieve victory against experienced rank 2 Magi or even kill them and gain a reputation for himself, this branch of ancient Magi, the Warlock, had quite a few flaws.

The issue of becoming overly emotional was one of the problems.

Compared to the rational Magus, Warlocks were easily affected by the external world and were often extremely emotional.

Slaughter and battles would easily result in fury for Warlocks, causing them to descend into a crazed state and lose part of their rationality. If he were to be surrounded by enemies, he would not be able to escape at

all.

“My bloodline is much too pure. The moment it flares up, even the potion of tranquility will be rejected from my body.”

Leylin checked his stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 2 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 21.1, Agility: 14.4, Vitality: 27.9, Spiritual force: 104.3, Magic power: 53 (Magic power is in synchronisation with spiritual force) Status: Large amounts of adrenaline is being secreted. Similarity to emotional outburst of Warlock: 98.7%. Dispelling potion of tranquility.]

“A.I. Chip, use Plan C!” Leylin could only laugh bitterly and give out the command.

[Received authorisation, beginning small operation on Host’s body.]

The A.I. Chip loyally answered. In that moment, Leylin’s pupils turned sky blue, and cold energy particles were produced from all over his body.

“He seems to have a problem! Go!!!”

The light Magi who had been pursuing them saw Leylin acting weirdly. Excited, the light Magus who was the leader waved his sleeves and countless flying bugs came together to form half a human face, flying towards Leylin.

“You just don’t know when to stop!”

A fire rose in Leylin’s heart, but with the force from the chilliness, it was quickly suppressed.

His right hand slashed downwards, and a formless, translucent ripple spread like a wave in the air.

The formless ripple immediately collided with the sea of bugs.

Bang! The half-formed human face stopped moving for a moment, and large amounts of flying bugs fell to the ground, their compound eyes no longer moving. The bodies became stiff and began to rot.

Huahuahua! Like rain, the bugs fell from the sky and formed grey droplets.

The formless poison seemed to be able to go through the void and connect to the Magus' spiritual force, corroding his actual body.

The Magus who manipulated the flying bugs staggered back, black tendrils that looked like snakes spreading on his face.

"Quick, protect me and help me leave!" At this moment, the leader of the group of light Magi finally regretted his greediness. Even when Leylin was in a strange state, he was not somebody he could handle.

"You're thinking of leaving?" Not far away, Leylin's lips curved up in a sly smile, and the black defensive item on his hand exploded. Black rays were pulled into a shape, turning into a longbow.

"Toxic Bile!"

Leylin used his innate rank 2 spell once more, his left hand pulling the string and releasing an arrow in the direction of the fleeing light Magi.

Beng!

With vibration from the string, a formless toxic arrow streaked through the sky, distorting the air as it passed.

On its way, the ground was charred black, plants died, creating a unique path that showed the arrow's route.

"No! You can't kill me! My father is-" The light Magus who was in the middle of escaping was so terrified that it seemed as if his spirit had departed. Next, his body trembled and his expression changed.

Ka-cha! The clothes on his back were ripped open, revealing a translucent palm.

This palm was the size of that of a regular human, and it grabbed towards the transparent toxic arrow.

Beng! A formless ripple spread, and the surrounding Magi quickly retreated, fearing the toxins.

“The protection from a rank 3 Magus?” Leylin watched on not far away, his desire to kill even stronger now, “Nobody can save you today!”

He pulled the string again. Bzz!

Along with the sounds of vibration, the toxic arrow that had been at a deadlock with the transparent palm exploded, forming countless tiny arrows that went flying in all directions.

Tss tss! The translucent palm exploded in such a manner that there were numerous holes in it, which caused it to break down. From within, the roar of an old Magus could be heard.

With an expression full of disbelief, that light Magus stiffly collapsed.

On his back, a large wound from the explosion had been inflicted. His innate defensive spell that he had been so proud of had not been the slightest bit useful.

“You-you actually killed him! His father is a rank 3 Magus!”

Siley’s voice trembled.

Leylin, who was still under the influence of the warlock bloodline effects, paid no heed to this. He turned, cold glaze piercing as he focused on Siley.

Siley quivered, suddenly remembering that his life was still in the hands of his opponent. He forced a smile, “Alright! I was just pointing it out. You can do whatever you want!”

Hesitation and struggle appeared in Leylin’s expression, and dense black gas wrapped his body.

Whoosh whoosh!

Strong black gales blew madly towards the distance, and in a moment, disappeared into the horizon.

“That crazy guy is finally gone!” Siley and his partner glanced at each other, and then Alistair who was heavily injured and unable to get up, with bitter smiles.

“What should we do? Jajone’s dead! Lord Eric won’t let us off!”

The other light Magi made sounds of indignation in unison.

“Kill those dark Magi and avenge Jajone!”

A light Magus stared hard at Siley and the rest with deep hatred.

Siley steeled his expression and stood with his partner, a ring of defensive energy particles appearing.

Pu! Pu! Pu!

In that instant, the looks on the faces of the Magi present changed. The fierce toxins suddenly flared up.

In the havoc that Leylin had wreaked previously, the Magi present had somewhat been affected by the toxins of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, and this was difficult to remove.

The light Magi had been affected by the attack towards Jajone, and their injuries were even more serious.

The two groups of people exchanged gazes, and eventually decided on leaving in a huff, rather than clashing.

Chapter 285: The Chase

In a grassland filled with blood-red pastureland.

An old male Magus with a head of white hair and a kind smile was guiding a few acolytes along the pasture. In their hands were a few metallic items used for harvesting.

“The reason for our existence is to seek truth! The path of a Magus is a continuous search for the truth, researching about phenomena and objects, and finding the rules in them and applying these concepts to ourselves. This is the source of motivation and strength for Magi!”

While walking, the old Magus taught the acolytes who were following behind him.

“I’ve already told you about the unique characteristics of the Bloody Grass. However, you’ve only seen pictures and samples. Now, I’ve brought you here, where it is naturally grown...”

“Arnold! Take a look at this. Is this Bloody Grass any different from the rest?”

The old Magus asked a male acolyte with freckles on his face.

“Yes! It’s thinner than others of its kind, and the veined pattern of blood on the surface isn’t very clear. It might have met with some natural predator, specifically... specifically...”

Arnold was still a large boy, with some hair growing above his lips. He walked ahead and extended his right hand towards the Bloody Grass, wanting to take a closer look.

Xiu!

In that instant, a red shadow shot out from the Bloody Grass, heading straight for Arnold’s face!

“Ah...” Arnold staggered and fell back, alarmed.

Pak! A black flash of light was shot out from the old Magus’ hands, striking the shadow down.

It was a red beetle-like organism with grey spots on its back. Its sharp mouth let out cold glints, its teeth that were half the size of its body still moving.

“This is the Sawtooth Beetle, the natural predator of the Bloody Grass! It loves to gnaw at the roots of the Bloody Grass. If it is cultivated by hand, one must patrol every day and eliminate this sort of insect!”

“Arnold! You didn’t even perform the most basic defence before observing the grass. This carelessness will cost you your life in the future!”

The old Magus shook his head and then headed off into the distance.

Arnold turned a little red as he rubbed his head, quickly stood up and caught up.

“Hey, big guy! You really are lucky! The spiral sawtooth attack of the Sawtooth Beetle is something even level 2 acolytes might not be able to take on! If not for mentor, you would now be a cold corpse...”

A female acolyte approached him, snorting in disdain.

“Hehe...” Arnold scratched his head, making him seem even more thickheaded.

“Let’s go! How could you even become an acolyte with that level of intelligence? It’s basically a disgrace to us and to our mentor!” A boy wearing fancy clothes and seemed to have received education on the etiquette of the nobility walked past, leaving Arnold far behind.

“Mentor! The Bloody Grass can strengthen one’s body to a certain extent, and is a huge temptation to some high-energy beings. It is usually found in places where high-energy beings hunt, so should we be a little more careful?”

The acolyte of nobility ran in front of the old Magus.

“You’re on the right track, but I’ve already scouted the area. The only high-energy being here is just a Gale Shackled Weasel, which is about the limits of what you are able to handle with your abilities!”

The old Magus nodded, praising him.

“Though Bloody Grass can strengthen the body to a certain extent, its poison is too strong for us humans. It needs to be processed before it can be turned into a potion! Your mission now is to harvest enough Bloody Grass to brew a standard portion of body-strengthening potion, as well as remove the poison within!”

The old Magus began to issue the task.

“Understood, mentor!” A few acolytes immediately brought out their apparatus and separated, with the old Magus at the centre so that he was able to help every one of them in time.

“Good!” Seeing this, the old Magus nodded in satisfaction.

Xiu! A Sawtooth Beetle shot out of the Bloody Grass, brushed past Arnold’s face and scared him so much that he fell.

“Haha! Look at that idiot! Mentor had already demonstrated that there could be beetles hidden in the Bloody Grass that looked less healthy, and yet you still try to harvest it!”

The acolyte of nobility coincidentally walked past. He raised his hand and chanted a few syllables, and a corrosive ball shot out, putting an end to the beetle before mocking him relentlessly.

“Look! I’ve almost gathered the required amount of resources, and you haven’t even filled the bottom yet!”

The acolyte opened his bag and proudly showed it to Arnold.

“Don’t bother with him! Levi, come help me! The roots of this Bloody Grass are too hard!” The girl from before hummed in dissatisfaction.

“Alright, alright, I’ll be right there!”

Levi quickly cast Arnold away, approaching the girl and being particularly attentive to her.

Though they were still children, the youngsters of the south coast usually matured early. There were already indications of this early on.

Upon seeing this, the old Magus reminiscenced, "This is youth..."

He mumbled to himself, producing a pipe with golden decorations on the surface and beginning to smoke. White circles of smoke were constantly puffed out and appeared in the air.

However, while he was recalling the past, a slight tremble of the ground began.

"Huh? This is?" The old Magus immediately put out his pipe, this peculiar situation immediately arousing his interest.

In the next few seconds, the tremors became more intense till the ground began to shake substantially.

From a distance away, a group of strange beings, such as two-headed wolves, four-legged mutated elks and all sorts of high-energy beings, normal beings, carnivorous and herbivorous animals banded together that formed a wave that was hard to avoid.

At the very front, the old Magus even found a few large terrifying beasts that gave him a sense of danger!

"Assemble! Assemble here!" The old Magus yelled, his voice a little hoarse from his nerves.

"What the hell is going on?"

The acolyte of nobility, Levi, raised his head and stared at the scene, stunned. All of a sudden, he was drowned by the large numbers of Sawtooth Beetles that flew out from the Bloody Grass. The girl with him could not escape the fate of death either, the sound of flesh and blood being gnawed on constantly being produced.

The group of beetles were like grey spots constantly rising from the Bloody Grass, forming a cloud that entered the wave.

"What's going on? Why are there animals fleeing from danger in this season? Is there some extremely dangerous being chasing after them?"

The old Magus wondered to himself, not even sparing a glance at Arnold who had been running pitifully.

Xiu xiu!

A human figure streaked through the sky at an incredibly fast rate, creating two air waves that had long ripples trailing behind.

“You can’t escape!”

A massive voice travelled from behind the figure. Following the sound, a large bundle of white light immediately appeared in front of the black figure, turning into a large shield.

“Scorching Touch!” With a wave of his hand, two streaks of red rays shot out from the shadow and created two large holes in the shield. Under the constant shimmering of the white rays, the shield quickly returned to its prior state.

Under the hindrance of the shield, the black figure stopped, revealing the appearance of a young Magus. He had black hair, his features handsome yet sinister.

Behind him, a line of white light brought with it immense pressure as it burst towards him.

Weng! A formless energy boundary dissipated in all directions with the light at the centre. A fantastical land of light and beauty suddenly descended upon this region.

“This is... the domain of a highly ranked Magus! It’s a rank 3 Magus!”

The old Magus gaped, his eyes on the verge of popping out, “Who in the world is he chasing after? Is it also a rank 3 lord Magus?”

The rays dissipated, revealing the figure of a blonde Magus.

“Poison King Leylin! You dare kill my blood! Even though Jajone was just trash, our family name must not be tarnished!

Countless rays were emitted from his body, forming a huge pike made of countless other pikes.

“Heavenly Pike!” The large numbers of pikes shot towards Leylin like raindrops.

“Toxic Bile!” Leylin spread his arms and a wave of toxins rippled towards the pikes. Tss tss! A large amount of white gas sizzled out, and the sounds of corrosion was produced from the pike formed of heavenly rays. It quickly began to fill with holes.

However, though the pike’s power seemed to have been weakened, it still charged towards Leylin.

“Kemoyin’s Scales!” From the surface of Leylin’s skin, countless black scales with incomplete runes on it emerged. The black light exploded from the scales, forming a huge shield in front of him.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

The pike penetrated the shield with black runes, focusing on Leylin’s body and created a large number of sparks.

An unnatural flush appeared on Leylin’s face, and he retreated. While flying backwards, he waved fiercely.

“Latent Fireball!”

Large amounts of black flames wrapped the shield of light from before, combusting fiercely.

The shield of light had become slightly thinner after the attack of the Scorching Touch. Now, with the attack from the Latent Fireball, white rays constantly flickered and eventually exploded, turning into little milky-white lights that were burnt till nothing was left by the black flames.

“Light Domain!” The blonde rank 3 Magus suddenly spread his arms, looking ready to give a hug.

Boom! The boundaries of light shifted such that it increased in area, including Leylin within.

A huge suction power exploded from the light Magus, and Leylin was involuntarily dragged closer to him.

“As expected of a rank 3 Magus! Though this light domain is but an imitation, it is still slightly able to suppress my strength!” Feeling the rapid increase of the number of light elemental particles in the air and the huge

decrease in dark elemental particles, Leylin's expression became grim.

“Die!”

A white bundle of light carrying with it a terrifying destructive power rose from the rank 3 light Magus' hand, advancing towards Leylin.

Chapter 286: Possession

“Activate gravitational spell formation at full power—100 times gravity!”

Leylin pressed his temples and ordered.

Weng weng!

A large, dark brown formation lit up and rose from the ground and tore apart the milky white domain.

The light Magus was stunned for a moment, the ball of energy in his hands changing its course and missing Leylin.

“An ancient spell formation? When did he set that up?”

The light Magus saw the terrifying formation that spanned for kilometres, shock apparent in his expression.

“I’ll take advantage of this! Suction spell formation!” An inverted “L” shaped rune brightened on Leylin’s body, and as if he was being sucked in by a black hole, he turned into a black streak and vanished.

“What an interesting little guy! It’s a pity that all your methods are useless against me!” The light Magus calmly looked in the direction in which Leylin had fled, and suddenly laughed, shooting a glance at the old Magus from the corner of his eye. He turned into a ray of light and quickly left the area.

“Poison? Then he should be the Demonic Poison King Leylin, whose name has been going around! I wonder which faction and organisation that rank 3 Magus is from...”

The old Magus mumbled to himself in a daze, not noticing the look of envy in Arnold’s eyes.

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Boom! A black shadow slammed into the spell formation, the powerful suction spell formation smashed to pieces.

Leylin let out a long sigh, “A rank 3 Magus is someone I can’t deal with yet...”

In the beginning, under the influence of his emotional state, Leylin had killed off Jojane, who had a powerful backing. Under his enraged state, he had not even taken the most basic protective measures.

When he had killed Jojane, the death mark from a rank 3 Magus was left on Leylin's body.

All Magi usually had this method. For Leylin, a mark from a rank 2 Magus basically had no effect on him. However, the mark from a rank 3 Magus was evidently not so easily dealt with.

Leylin forced a smile and took a look at his sea of consciousness.

Within the crimson sea was a little, maggot shaped, milky white ray of light. While Leylin was not paying attention to it, it would expand.

A large amount of time and spiritual force would be needed to wear down and expel this mark.

This was the best solution provided by the A.I. Chip, but Leylin would be found by his opponent every so often. There was not enough time to deal with this.

After a few battles, Leylin had a better understanding of his own strength.

In his current state, he was a terrifying existence to rank 2 Magi who were lucky enough to rank up.

With a high-grade meditation technique, as well as a powerful bloodline, Leylin's advancements in rank as a warlock always brought immense benefits and increases in strength.

However, for similar rank 2 Magi who also possessed high-grade meditation techniques, the gap was not so obvious.

"In my current state, I am considered an elite amongst rank 2 Magi. However, in the face of any rank 3 Magi, I have no confidence at all. Even being able to escape would depend on my luck!"

Leylin shook his head and walked out.

In front of him was a small, desolate little town, with dust, rubbish and

all sorts of vines growing on the ground.

“No! The mark on my body is constantly emitting waves to track my location. No matter where I am on the south coast, I’ll easily be found. I need to go to a place far, far away, to the point that the distance can interfere with the mark’s transmission of information!”

Leylin’s eyes showed his resolution. This was the desolate town where the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s secret plane had been!

“If this really doesn’t work out, I can just use the teleportation spell formation and leave this place! If I’m quick enough, he won’t be able to find out about this place, and I may still be able to return!”

If the Magus did not find out about this secret plane, Leylin could remove all traces of the mark, and then confidently strut back into the south coast.

The moment the entrance to the secret plane was found, no matter how much Leylin did not want to do so, he could only hold back the pain of having to abandon this place, destroy the teleportation spell formation there, and leave this place forever.

“I didn’t think I’d need to use my last resort so soon!”

Leylin laughed bitterly, and from a spell formation at the villa, entered the secret plane. While going through the spell formation that went through the void, Leylin moved his hand and a red ray disappeared into the wall.

“I haven’t been able to obtain probing spells or spiritually branded slaves. If I’m going over, I’ll need to do it myself. Though I’ve already ascertained that the teleportation spell formation is alright after checking with the A.I. Chip, gambling like this really leaves a sour taste in my mouth...”

Leylin furrowed his brows and came to the secret room in the narrow pathway.

Though he was sure that the teleportation spell formation was fine, the state of the surroundings around it might not be alright.

What he could confirm, though, was that the other side of the spell was in a place that was very far away. As long as he escaped and broke the connection between the two spell formations, he would be able to break away from the chase of the rank 3 Magus!

“I’ll take a look over there, and if it really isn’t a good environment there, I can still come back!” Leylin consoled himself.

Pu! All of a sudden, a bright, milky-white beam shot out from Leylin’s body and up into the sky, heading upwards in a straight line as if penetrating the hindrances of the secret room.

Leylin covered his head and staggered back. In his sea of consciousness, that milky-white light was spreading outwards, and no matter how Leylin used his spiritual force to obstruct it, it was of no use.

Leylin seemed to see a blonde rank 3 Magus rushing towards him.

“The time he takes to detect me has shortened. He’s found this place!”

Leylin’s expression turned grim, “I’ll have to use my last resort and completely give up on this place!”

Not only that, even the teleportation spell formation had to be destroyed as well. If not, the Magus could give chase through the spell formation. With the mark, it was impossible for Leylin to hide.

Tss tss! Numerous black tendrils of smoke were emitted from Leylin’s body. Meanwhile, in his sea of consciousness, a vast amount of red rays charged towards the milky-white spiritual force and encircled it, temporarily isolating it from external influences.

Rumble!

The secret plane began to shake as if there was a powerful existence attacking the area from outside.

“Alric is attacking the secret plane!” Leylin grit his teeth as the crimson ring on his finger exploded.

The alert spell formation that the Gargamel had set up on the wall had

been damaged by Leylin in the past. However, the moment the red rays shone, it began to work once more, and a hidden spiritual force travelled through a special path.

Hualala!

In an area surrounding the little town, the grass and soil flipped over, and a strange 'corpse' crawled out!

This 'corpse' was shrivelled up and small, and resembled an old woman. Moreover, it had a couple of deformities. Not only were there two extra arms and legs, there was also a young face growing at the back of the head of the old lady.

It looked like a body that was shared by two people.

"The alert system set up by Master has been activated! The only person who can find this place has to be Leylin!"

Wisps of green light shot out of the old woman's eyes. "It has to be him!"

"Leylin? The offering that escaped?" The young woman's face behind the old lady opened her eyes.

"Yes! If not for him, you would have gained a body of your own and not have ended up in this state."

The old woman grit her teeth, a deep-rooted hatred apparent in her eyes.

She was Old Devil, the female Magus who had conducted secret dealings with Leylin in Nightless City. She had tried to use him as an offering to the Gargamel in the secret plane, in order to allow her daughter, Jaye, to regain her physical body.

Unfortunately, due to Leylin's escape, her wish had been realised with a strange method.

Somehow, the Gargamel had forcibly induced half a corporeal body onto the old woman's body, and had placed Jaye's spirit within.

It could be said that Leylin had played a very big part in causing the

two of them to end up in this way.

“I want to kill him!”

Old Devil roared.

“Have you forgotten Master’s orders? He’s an offering for Master, so only Master is qualified to enjoy him!” Jaye’s eyes, behind Old Devil’s head, suddenly glazed over as she muttered.

“No! I wouldn’t dare offend Lord Gargamel!” The old witch quickly knelt down and begged for forgiveness.

“Then say your prayers, and report the happenings here to the great Lord Gargamel!”

Jaye closed her eyes after speaking, and the next time she opened them, she seemed to have turned into another person. “Mother! My illness seems to be getting worse...”

After implanting the spirit, the Gargamel had mixed in a few things into Jaye’s spirit, and had set up a core of consciousness that would oversee the old witch.

Old Devil, whose daughter was being controlled, had no choice but to submit to the Gargamel.

“Oh, Great Gargamel, home of all spirits! You are the master of all, as well as the beginning and ending of all. Please listen to the prayers of your servant...”

The old witch took out something like a communication device and chanted a long verse of prayers from a scripture.

Weng Weng!

After Old Devil explained the current situation, the communication device began to vibrate.

“Yes, Lord Gargamel! It will possess me!”

The old witch was stricken with fear, but her body involuntarily knelt to the ground—after the modifications, her body was now no longer her

own.

A powerful spirit that was brimming with evil thoughts used a special method to rush out of the communication device and possessed the old witch's body.

Old Devil's body trembled violently, her eyes rolled back, and white foam frothed at her mouth.

Finally, her body was wrapped up in a black spiritual body and turned into a large, black, human figure.

On the figure's face, there was a mask of a devil's skull with a horn on it, which looked immensely strange.

Chi chi!

The Gargamel that had possessed Old Devil's body made a sound and charged towards the secret plane.

Chapter 287: Teleportation

“Oh? A unique, diseased spiritual force, and spiritual power full of hatred and resentment! You are a Gargamel, the main cause of the plague in the west!”

The rank 3 light Magus, Alric, immediately identified the Gargamel.

Chi chi! What came in response was a loud roar from the Gargamel.

The human figure with a bone mask waved his cape, and a great number of crazed and indistinct spirits pounced towards Alric, many of which began to self detonate in mid-air.

Rumble! The power of the explosion of spirits brought with it toxins of an ancient plague, causing Alric's face to change as he staggered backwards.

“Light of Saint's Glory!” He shouted, like a bishop not at all afraid of death, his face radiating with a dazzling light.

A large amount of milky-white, divine light was produced from Alric's body, and the silhouette of a large building that commanded respect appeared behind him.

The moment these spirits met with the sacred light, black gases emerged from their bodies, and their crazed expressions became peaceful.

Afterwards, with their faces full of tranquility and smiles, they threw themselves towards the building behind Alric.

“It really is the Gargamel, with a body constructed of resentment!”

The light Magus roared, and like a madman, rammed into the huge figure.

The divine, milky white cleansing light and the black power of loathing offset each other.

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At this moment, Leylin was currently placing a black, magic crystal into an energy slot.

Rumble! The teleportation spell formation came to life, rings of light brightening and four energy balls that represented Earth, Fire, Wind and Water hovering on top of the four stone pillars. The red, yellow, green, and blue lights came together, sparkling brilliantly all this while.

“I never expected the rank 3 Magus to come so quickly! Luckily, I made some preparations...”

Leylin looked at the spatial passage that was forming, and heaved a long sigh of relief.

He had anticipated that the rank 3 Magus would follow him. Afterall, every once in a while, the rank 3 Magus would use the mark to detect his position, not giving Leylin the slightest chance to rest or remove the mark.

To give himself more time, Leylin immediately thought of the Gargamel.

It had obviously remembered Leylin, and had determined that Leylin would definitely return to the secret plane. Hence, it had set up a secret alerting spell formation at the entrance.

However, with Leylin's powers of detection, this was very obvious, and the spell formation had been temporarily damaged and sealed by him.

Leylin's previous actions had completely activated the alerting spell formation and had drawn the Gargamel here, which would give him more time.

Since the rank 3 Magus was from the light Magi alliance, how could it just let the Gargamel, a body formed from resentment, go? In addition, the Gargamel was directly responsible for the recent huge plague in the west.

From the looks of it, everything was going according to plan.

A pitch black spatial passageway that emitted silver rays of light was constructed from nothingness on top of the spell formation.

“I need to leave this place, and I don't know when I'll be able to

return!”

Leylin turned back to look at this region, suddenly feeling reluctant to leave.

No matter what, this was the place that he had grown up in. The memories of this place had already been branded into his heart.

If the other side was a place with terrible conditions, and if the rank 3 Magus was unable to find this place, Leylin might even make use of the teleportation spell formation on the other end and return. However, it was evident that this was no longer possible.

Leylin had no idea how long it would take for him to use his own strength to return instead of using the teleportation spell formation.

“Goodbye, south coast!” Leylin murmured.

Rumble!

Just as he put one foot into the teleportation passageway, a rumble sounded out, and everything around him began to shake, as if there was a magnitude 10 earthquake.

Huala!

The roof of the secret room was torn open, and boundless amounts of sacred light flooded in.

“Leylin! Don’t even think of running!” Alric roared, bearing terrifying injuries from spirits detonating themselves on his body.

The Gargamel was an ancient being after all, and its might even reached the thresholds of the level of a Morning Star Magus.

Though its power had not fully recovered and it was merely using a borrowed body, it was still able to cause some trouble for Alric.

“An ancient teleportation spell formation?”

Upon seeing the spell formation with its four, glimmering, coloured lights, he shouted.

As a rank 3 Magus, he had lived a few centuries. How could he not know

what an ancient teleportation spell formation represented?

That signified another continent with endless resources and boundless benefits!

“Stay here!” Alric’s eyes turned red as he approached the ancient teleportation spell formation. He could give up on anything for access to this teleportation spell formation. He roared, two large arms made of sacred light grabbing towards Leylin.

However, Leylin merely gazed at Alric coldly, and two words came out of his mouth. “Too late!”

Rumble!

A layer of Kemoyin’s Scales covered Leylin’s body, and with a huge leap, the silverish spatial passageway swallowed him.

Tss tss! After teleporting one person, all the energy of the spell formation was sucked dry, and the various rays of light dimmed. The passageway disappeared.

“No...” Seeing the spatial passageway, which was gradually closing like a beast’s mouth, Alric shouted.

Whoosh! He appeared in front of the teleportation spell formation, fishing out a high-grade energy crystal and throwing it into the energy slot.

“Quickly! Activate!”

Though Alric did not know the Turin Language, he still had other methods. Under the solidified milky-white holy rays that wrapped up the spell formation, the spell formation began to work.

With large amounts of effort on Alric’s end, the spell formation worked at twice the speed that it had with Leylin.

“Faster! Faster! Faster!” However, Alric was still not satisfied, and kept inserting his immense spiritual force into the spell formation.

He knew very well that the moment Leylin reached his destination, he would immediately destroy the spell formation at the other side. When

that happened, they would be on two different continents, and his revenge for his son, as well as the benefits from the teleportation spell formation, would come to naught.

All he needed now was a little bit of time!

With the urging of Alric, a rank 3 Magus, the spell formation worked quickly, and rings of energy constantly ascended.

Once again, a pitch black passageway opened up!

“Exactly! That’s how it should be!” Alric mumbled, eyes full of excitement as he watched the spatial passageway begin to open.

Weng! Bang!

However, just as it was about to completely open, the teleportation spell formation suddenly halted, the lights turning dim and the space cracking. The passageway then disappeared.

This situation meant that Leylin had already destroyed the spell formation on the other end!

“Damn it!” Alric roared, milky-white holy light that could be seen by the naked eye emitting from his body and destroying the items in the secret room around him.

Next, a light beam struck the teleportation spell formation, turning it into a huge crater!

Without the spell formation on the other side, this spell formation was merely a decoration. He obviously wouldn’t leave any chances for Leylin to make use of this spell formation again.

“Despicable! Repulsive! Damn it!” Alric yelled, the pain of being on the verge of gaining something only to lose it right after feeling like a poisonous snake devouring his soul.

Chi chi!

At this moment, with the wails of spirits that had departed unjustly, the secret plane of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect began to shake.

A pair of translucent, black arms broke through the hinderance of the secret plane, as if tearing through cloth, and charged towards the centre of the secret plane.

“The main body of the Gargamel has actually reached rank 3...”

Alric’s face turned grim. Without even having the opportunity to lament over letting Leylin go just like that, his clothes began to flutter despite there being no wind, and he flew in mid-air, confronting the Gargamel.

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After Leylin entered the spatial passageway, regret was apparent in his expression.

The immense spatial power was like several hundred tons of seawater pressing against him from all directions and tearing his body apart.

Kemoyin’s Scales constantly produced crisp explosive sounds, as if about to crumble under this power.

If that happened, Leylin, who no longer had an innate defensive spell, would turn into minced meat in the flow of space.

“I miscalculated! I overestimated my own body’s capabilities and the defence of Kemoyin’s Scales!”

Leylin’s expression was serious, “This is a spatial passageway connecting two continents. The pressure within is something that not even rank 2 Magi are able to withstand. There must have been some method used in ancient times to avoid this, but I haven’t found it yet...”

“This can’t go on!” Leylin saw his Kemoyin’s Scales contracting, so he produced a red test tube from his pouch and smashed it.

Puff! A defensive layer formed from the red potion appeared on the surface of his body, and it began to vibrate for a while; after only three seconds, it shattered.

“A middle-grade defensive potion can only withstand this for three seconds?” Leylin was expressionless as he produced another potion.

As a Potioneering Master, he had tens of different types of defensive

potions in his spatial pouch, which would be enough to last him for a long time.

Bang! The layer formed by the potion cracked, and was then quickly replaced by another layer of defence.

Leylin constantly went through his reserves to withstand this.

Finally, the potions were completely used up and a large pressure was once again put on Kemoyin's Scales.

"Ah..." Leylin shouted in a low voice, spiritual force and magic constantly being consumed as incomplete black runes that formed a full-body shield was produced from his scales.

Ka-cha! Ka-cha!

After being in a deadlock for a period of time, Leylin's spiritual force was exhausted and the defence of the Kemoyin's Scales shattered into pieces. A tremendous pressure began to tear Leylin's body apart.

Credits

Translator: [OMA Translations](#)

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